

THE TIMES

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MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

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Gay sex claims overshadow Tory election campaign launch

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, JOANNA BAILE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

ALLEGATIONS of an illegal relationship with a homosexual teenager yesterday put the future of a Conservative MP in doubt and marred John Major's launch of an election campaign that could last up to four months.

After Mr Major unleashed a furious attack on the opposition parties' plans for constitutional change, senior Conservatives were last night urging Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, to go quickly and quietly to avoid further embarrassment to the Prime Minister's crusade to put the family at the heart of Tory policy-making.

Mr Hayes, 43, who is married with two children, denied any sexual relationship with Paul Stone, who was 18 when their friendship began. A constituency official disclosed that Mr Hayes had confessed to him that he had been in danger of developing "unhealthy" feelings for the teenager.

Mr Stone is understood to have received £75,000 for selling his claims to the *News of the World* through the publisher Max Clifford. The paper first learnt of the story on Christmas Eve. The relationship was alleged to have begun in 1992 when the homosexual age of consent was 21.

The episode is an embarrassment to the Tories who will today launch an expensive advertising campaign against Labour, with the slogan "New Labour, New Failure". The theme is that a Labour government "would all end in tears".

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "I said a couple of



A recent photograph of Jerry Hayes with his wife, Alison, and their children, Lawrence and Francesca. The MP denied having a sexual relationship with a teenage youth

days ago that John Major's new push on family values was bound to end in tears and it has."

Harlow is one of the Tories' more vulnerable seats — Mr Hayes had a majority of 2,940 at the last election — and constituency officers are to meet the MP shortly to discuss his future. A full meeting of the executive committee will be held in two weeks.

Mr Hayes is not a minister and his fate therefore rests with the association rather than with the Cabinet or Conservative Central Office. But senior Tories said that

he would best serve Mr Major by not standing at the election and allowing his constituency to pick a replacement. This is what ministers expect to happen.

Mr Major declined to comment on the allegations when he began his new year fightback on BBC Television's *Breakfast With Frost*. The Prime Minister mounted a fierce onslaught against Labour and the Liberal Democrats after indications yesterday that they were close to a deal on constitutional reform, including abolition of voting rights for hereditary peers and

something wholly unknown and inexperienced?

David Roberts, chairman of the Harlow association, confirmed that he had requested a meeting with Mr Hayes but he voiced his support for the MP. "I spoke briefly to Jerry last night. The comments that I have had from other members have been very supportive. He is a very good constituency MP and he works very hard for the town."

"People do have feelings for other people. In this case, Jerry said he accepted that those feelings were perhaps in danger of

becoming unhealthy and it stopped at that point. There was nothing sexual."

Simon Carter, chairman of the Conservative political committee at Harlow and former leader of the Tory group on the district Council, said: "With John Major's recent announcement about family values, I was not surprised that one of the tabloids came up with something like this. Jerry says nothing untoward happened and we believe him."

Pact negotiations, page 2
Career in jeopardy, page 3

Sinn Fein leaders in IRA video

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A NEW IRA propaganda video — designed to bolster support for the terrorists' campaign of violence after the collapse of their ceasefire — features footage of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.

The two men, who have consistently denied that they are IRA leaders, appear, on the 55-minute video sandwiched between lengthy shots of masked terrorists firing automatic rifles and mortar bombs.

Mr Adams, 48, president of Sinn Fein, is shown giving a clenched fist salute at a republican rally in Belfast in a section of the video covering the 1994 IRA ceasefire. He and Mr McGuinness, 46, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, then make two further appearances in a section of the tape in which they blame Britain for the collapse of the ceasefire in February last year. The producers of the tape, entitled *IRA in our Streets and in our Countryside*, pirated interviews with the Sinn Fein leaders from the BBC and Ulster Television.

The disclosure of the tape's existence by *The Times* led to calls last night for Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness to be arrested and charged with IRA membership. Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said the Government had no excuse for failing to crack down on the two men because the video clearly identified them as IRA leaders.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Mandela ousted as student bar hero

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NELSON MANDELA is losing his status as an icon for youth. Two-thirds of student unions have dropped his name from their bars or buildings in favour of more trendy heroes, including Des Lynam, Freddie Mercury and Oasis.

At the peak of his fame as a *cause célèbre*, the South African President was adopted by at least 30 universities. But he has been dropped in favour of Des Lynam, the BBC presenter, as the figurehead of Warwick University's bar as students want to attract more sports players.

Both Coventry and Leicester universities now have Oasis instead of Mandela bars. Ryan Fay, president at Coventry, said students had not forgotten Mr Mandela. He said there was "a time and a place for politics" and Oasis, the band of the decade, was a more suitable name for a bar.

The Nelson Mandela Ballroom at Durham University was renamed after Margot Fonteyn two years ago and a Mandela room at Exeter has become the Freddie Mercury Suite in honour of the late lead singer of Queen.

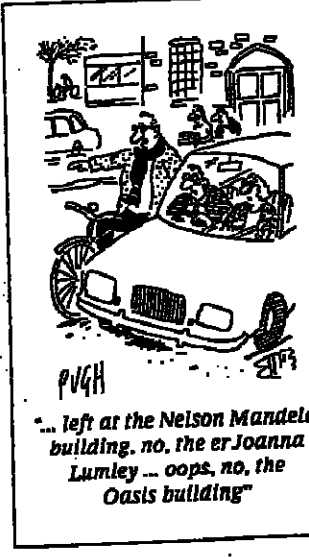
Mr Mandela's name now survives at only 11 student venues, and several of them are likely to expunge him this year.

Some students believe idealism is being replaced by business realism. Tom Wilcox, vice-president at Queen Mary's College, London, said students were more concerned with standards of service, not political issues. "That means sponsorship, and naming a room after a sponsor is the best way to generate revenue."

But there is some hope for a comeback by the South African leader at Oxford, where the Mandela bar was recently restored by New College after several years as the Joanna Lumley Room. At Bristol, students defeated a motion to rename its Mandela Bar as the Noel Edmonds Imbibing Suite.

Mandela is also preserved at the National Union of Students' headquarters in London. A spokeswoman said: "There are no plans to change the name of the building. Nelson Mandela was very important to the student movement. He is our honorary president."

Leading article, page 19



... left at the Nelson Mandela building, no. the Joanna Lumley — oops, no, the Oasis building

Henman loses to Courier in final

Tim Henman reached an ATP Tour final for the first time, in the Qatar Open in Doha, but was beaten by Jim Courier, the former world No 1, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2.

To put Henman's achievement into perspective, Courier, who has four grand-slam singles titles to his name, represented Henman's first serious challenge of the week. However, Henman appears to have lost none of the momentum he gathered in 1996. Page 25

Vatican apologises to Jews for 'errors'

The Vatican is to apologise formally for the "anti-Semitic errors" of Catholicism as part of an attempt to reconcile Christianity, Judaism and Islam in time for the millennium.

A commission will examine the persecution of Jews by the Inquisition and Catholic attitudes towards Nazism. Page 9

Belgrade paralysed

President Milosevic appeared to have lost control of the Serbian capital Belgrade as a cavalcade of cars and more than 100,000 pro-democracy demonstrators paralysed the city. Page 8

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Actors in Tory tear-jerker campaign are sworn to secrecy

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE "real people" at the heart of the Tories' new multi-million-pound poster campaign are not real at all, but are actors who have been forced by the party to sign a written undertaking not to reveal their true identities.

Stung by the publicity over their "Demon eyes" campaign last August, the Conservative Party and its advertising agency, M&C Saatchi, have gone to great lengths to ensure that the people used in their five new posters — to be unveiled today — under the theme that a Labour government "would all end in tears" — remain nameless faces. The

"Demon eyes" campaign featured a picture of Tony Blair, the Labour leader, with two sinister eyes superimposed on his face.

The actor whose eyes were used in the poster subsequently said he would have turned down the job had he known it would be used in a "dirty tricks" campaign. The Advertising Standards Authority ruled that the poster was offensive to Mr Blair and asked the Conservatives to withdraw it.

A Tory party insider said yesterday: "In the process of choosing the people used in the new ads, we made it clear to



One of the posters, shown in *The Mail on Sunday*

them that it would be for a Tory party campaign. They were shown everything all the way through. It was made a condition of the work that they would not reveal who

they were and we would not give out their identities.

One of the five posters shows a black and white photograph of a couple with haggard and downcast faces

holding a baby. A red tear trickles down the woman's face to illustrate the tears that supposedly would be shed under a Blair government. The slogan, emblazoned in red, reads: "New Labour ... New Failure".

The posters, to be splashed across 3,000 sites throughout the country over the next three weeks, mark the start of the Tory party's final big advertising push before the general election campaign. It comes 12 months to the day after the "Labour's tax bombshell" campaign, is considered within the party to have been a great success.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said that the

poster of the young couple "bordered on the edge of negative advertising". He added: "If the Tories want to debate whether that young couple would be better off after 18 years of Tory power, then we will be happy to debate issues. Eighteen years has left too many young couples in poverty and insecurity, with no possibility of change."

The man behind the latest Tory campaign is Steve Hilton, 27, who works for Lord Saatchi. Mr Hilton, who was educated at public school and Oxford, is a keen fan of the pop groups Pulp and Oasis and refuses to wear a tie, even on visits to Downing Street. Born in London, he spent

several years of his childhood in Hungary, where his late father was a professional sportsman, having been goalkeeper for the national ice hockey team.

He worked as a researcher for Conservative Central Office before the last general election and was recruited by Lord Saatchi shortly afterwards. In addition to working on commercial accounts such as British Airways, he has also been involved in political campaigns in Russia, Ireland and Portugal.

□ The brewer Guinness has withdrawn an advertisement which ran in the men's magazine *FHM*, showing a masked man in a leather jacket hang-

ing by chains from a ceiling under a portrait of John Major and next to a bowl of oranges. The opposite page carried the slogan: "A little bit of what you fancy does you good."

The picture could be seen as a reference to the death of Stephen Milligan, Tory MP for Eastleigh, who was found dead in his west London flat in 1994 with an orange in his mouth and a plastic bag over his head.

A spokesman for the Guinness group said that an internal inquiry would be held. "This particular advertisement causes offence and it is regrettable that it was ever shown in the first place."

Ashdown demands Labour support for electoral reform

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN demanded yesterday that the Labour leader commit himself to arguing for electoral reform.

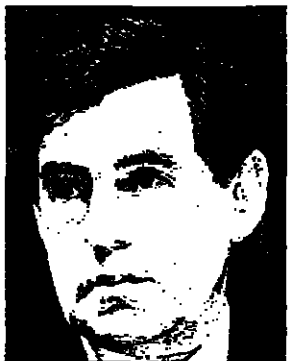
Mr Blair's aides dismissed the Liberal Democrat leader's challenge to him to back electoral reform as the key to agreement between the two parties on constitutional change. They said that Mr Ashdown had "no right to lay down terms" and that the Labour leadership would not go into the election "with our hands tied by the Liberal Democrats".

Mr Ashdown indicated that his party's support for Labour's programme of constitutional reforms depended on Mr Blair pledging that he would support electoral reform in the referendum on the issue that Labour has said it would hold. Mr Blair has opposed outright proportional representation, but has left open the possibility of consulting himself to more modest reforms.

Talks between the two parties have brought them close to agreement on central areas of constitutional change, such as

devolution, reform of the House of Lords, a Freedom of Information Act and parliamentary procedure.

"We can't have a package of constitutional change unless that includes electoral reform to which, if we are to get it through, all parties must be committed," Mr Ashdown told ITV's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme. "Constitutional reform has to be taken as a whole," he said. "This isn't a



Brown: previously opposed reforms

'pick-n-mix' arrangement." Senior Liberal Democrats said last night that the talks would founder if Mr Blair refused to take a more positive stance on electoral reform.

However, Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who has opposed electoral reform, took a more conciliatory line than that of Mr Blair's spokesman. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend*, Mr Brown said: "What Tony Blair is going to say or recommend in that referendum [on electoral reform] is a matter that he has not commented on and it would be wrong to assume that he has made his position known."

Senior Liberal Democrats suggested that Mr Blair might commit himself to electoral change to avoid the confusion over proportional representation that overshadowed the final days of Neil Kinnock's 1992 election campaign. The two parties cited the talks on constitutional reform as an example of consensus politics which, they claimed,



Paddy Ashdown on Jonathan Dimbleby's programme yesterday. He said that all parties had to be committed

the Tories had ignored. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said Mr Major was "rattled and disconcerted" by the talks between Labour and the Liberal Democrats. "He is totally out of step with public opinion. People want more moderate government and stronger individual rights and John Major will lose by going

against these ideas," he said. "Mr Major seems to want to run Britain as a one-party state with parliamentary accountability further declining and sleaze growing."

However, both Labour and Liberal Democrats emphasised that their talks on implementing constitutional reform had yet to reach final agree-

ment. The eight negotiators will resume talks this week, with the aim of reaching agreement by next month.

The two leaderships were adamant yesterday that they were not bypassing their own party memberships and said that any agreement would be put to the respective parties for approval before the election.

Liberal Democrat leaders want to bolster Labour in its commitment to end the right of hereditary peers to vote in the Lords, amid signs that Labour is preparing to delay the reforms until at least the second year of the Parliament.

William Rees-Mogg, Peter Riddell, page 18

Poll-rocked Prime Minister may face Blair in public debate

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR showed again yesterday that he believes he is the Tories' strongest card if they are to claw back Labour's massive opinion-poll lead and win a fifth successive term.

His announcement that he will hold on-the-record, White House-style press conferences and will escape "Westminster's charm circle" to meet the public confirms that he has decided that a presidential campaign is his best chance. Mr Major even said that he had an open mind about a public debate with Tony Blair, although past prime ministers

have avoided such confrontations. Mr Major has begun election year at a furious pace. Today, as the latest anti-Labour posters are unveiled in London, he will be campaigning in the North. Tomorrow he will go to Conservative Central Office to give the first of his new-style media conferences. On Wednesday, he will set off for a whistle-stop trip to India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, returning next week as the recess ends.

The Prime Minister's decision to go to the sub-continent was personal: some advisers would have preferred him to stay at home. He believes that, in spite of the risk of unwelcome stories breaking while he is away, there is more to be gained from being seen on the world stage and doing business for Britain. He will be taking a contingent of leading industrialists.

Mr Major has had a good rest from Westminster and the media, but he has not been wasting his holiday break. Policy advisers have made regular visits to his Huntingdon home for brainstorming sessions on the manifesto. The early fruits were available at the end of last week when the Prime Minister restated his vision of Conservatism in the foreword to a new book containing his speeches.

Mr Major is expected to hold press conferences about every three weeks from now to the election. His preferred polling date remains May 1. He said that he wanted to "get directly through to the public without having my views enshrined in someone else's words between me and the media when they report them."

After a regional tour in September, Mr Major told aides that he was confident he could win the election. One said: "He is always impressed by the immense amount of goodwill shown towards him whenever he goes out into the country. He has the experience of the 1990 leadership election, the 1992 general election and the 1995 leadership election behind him. He won every time and it did not always look as if he would. He believes he is a winner and that is a huge asset."



Major: election "will be won in the country"

Mr Major promised a proper appeal system for couples refused adoption for "any reasons. It was nonsense to tell relatively young people they were too old to adopt. 'Is it better for an orphan to have the loving environment of a couple who will care for him or her and cherish the child, or to remain institutionalised?'"

The Prime Minister also promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who demanded to leave her parents' home after failing for an 18-year-old car thief. He said there had been rather disturbing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

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Consider the NHS, Carey tells voters

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday urged churchgoers to consider the state of the health service when deciding who to vote for in the forthcoming general election. Dr George Carey said politicians' views on strengthening

the health service should be considered by voters in order to help to attain the kind of society "we desperately need". Interviewed for BBC Radio 2 yesterday morning, Dr Carey, said the Church should not tell congregations which way to vote. It would be wrong for churches to say, for example, that one party had

the best foreign policy or the best defence policy.

"What we can do is to help our congregations to meditate on the issues that lie behind these," he said. "For example, what kind of society do we want? What are the politicians' thoughts about strengthening the National Health Service? There are various

aspects like that which go into the kind of society we desperately need."

Dr Carey's comments come days after five senior Church of England bishops were criticised for accusing the Government of failing to put morality at the heart of its policy and for presiding over the country's spiritual impoverishment.

Hume offers terms for Sinn Fein pact

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN HUME, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, yesterday set out his terms for an electoral pact with Sinn Fein — telling republicans to declare a ceasefire and to end their boycott of Westminster.

In a strongly worded article in a Dublin newspaper, the MP said he wanted to increase the number of nationalist MPs to counter "the Unionist blackmail of the Government". But he said that the SDLP would never enter a pact with a party committed to violence.

Mr Hume's article was the first time he has spelled out the arguments in favour of an electoral pact with Sinn Fein, which could almost double the number of nationalist MPs at Westminster. He had rarely discussed the issue before because the SDLP's three other MPs are opposed to a pact. The SDLP MPs are the only Irish nationalist voices at Westminster out of Northern Ireland's 17 MPs. Boundary changes mean that there will be 18 seats at the next election, seven of which could be won by nationalists if there were an SDLP/Sinn Fein pact.

Mr Hume wrote in the *Sunday Independent* that he

would discuss an electoral pact with Sinn Fein "in circumstances of a complete end to violence". But he told the party to abandon its boycott of Westminster or else not bother to contest the election.

"What, exactly, is the motivation of those who insist on fighting for seats in a Parliament they do not recognise — seats which they would refuse to take if they won them?" Mr Hume wrote. "How does a policy of neutralising representation, rather than maximising it, fit into a strategy of seeking a negotiated settlement through the democratic political process?"

If the SDLP and Sinn Fein were to form a pact they could unseat Ken Maginnis, of the Ulster Unionist Party, in Fermanagh and South Tyrone, and the Rev William McCrea, of the Democratic Unionists, in Mid Ulster, and also capture the new seat of West Tyrone.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, refused to sit in the "foreign Parliament" when he was MP for West Belfast between 1983 and 1992. Mr Adams said last night that he was disappointed by Mr Hume's article.

Continued from page 1

while Michael Bates, the former Northern Ireland Security Minister, said the video confirmed the two men were pivotal IRA leaders. "It puts in black and white what we have known all along. There is no difference between Sinn Fein and the IRA. They are a seamless robe," he said.

The 18:50 video, which recently went on sale at the Sinn Fein bookshop on the Falls Road in West Belfast, sends a blunt message that the republican movement's dual strate-

gy of the "Armalite and the ballot paper" is now firmly weighted in favour of terrorism.

The section covering the collapse of the ceasefire is followed by a picture of a masked terrorist aiming a rocket-propelled grenade at the words "Will the Brits Ever Learn?" appear. The tape then ends with the words "Tlocaidh ar la", the IRA slogan which means "Our day will come".

The video, which is selling well at the Sinn Fein

bookshop on the Falls Road which is used regularly by Mr Adams as a press conference venue, opens with scenes of heavy-handed police tactics in the late 1960s and early 1970s to set the scene for the Provisional IRA's campaign. It has no narrative and uses Irish music and rebel republican songs for background sound and shows the IRA in three phases from "Defence" to "Resistance" and on to the "Offensive".

The IRA pushes home its headline message by taking a swipe at Baroness Thatcher for her tough stance during the 1981 republican hunger strike.

As four armed terrorists patrol a Belfast street the former Prime Minister's famous comment that the IRA had played "its last card" during the hunger strikes flashes up. There is a pause and then, as one of the terrorists aims a general-purpose machine gun, the words "Didn't she get it wrong?" appear on the screen.

Richard McAuley, Sinn Fein's spokesman in Belfast, last night rejected claims that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness were IRA leaders. He said: "Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness have rejected the suggestion time and time again that they are in the IRA or are leaders in the IRA."



Masked man with AK47 rifle in the new IRA video

Politician seen as a figure of fun at Westminster faces collapse of career after claims of gay affair

Spectre of young 'assistant' returns to haunt Hayes

By Alan Hamilton

THE likely demise of the political career of Mr. Jerry Hayes, who was seen as a figure of fun at Westminster, is now a reality. His decision to return to the political arena after a period of absence has been met with a mixture of surprise and scepticism.

Mr. Hayes, who was seen as a figure of fun at Westminster, is now a reality. His decision to return to the political arena after a period of absence has been met with a mixture of surprise and scepticism.

I expect he's trying to make a joke of it. It's not funny, but he never knew the difference

The texts of several passionate love letters, said to have been written by Mr. Hayes to his young partner, a research assistant, and his alleged homosexual acts, took place within the Palace of Westminster.

Mr. Hayes, a left-of-centre Tory who despised Margaret Thatcher, seized the previously rock-solid Labour seat of Harlow, Essex, in 1983 and continued to cling to it with a majority of under 3,000.

Mr. Hayes, however, he is widely regarded as a figure of fun, a constant guest on late-night television shows, always in demand as the MP who would do anything for the cameras.

He has dived a bear's outfit, skydived as a chicken, performed a strip routine from Britain's, and allowed himself to be whipped by the children's television presenter Michaela Strachan, all for the cameras.

He has become increasingly associated with homosexual rights, an unpopular cause in the Conservative Party. He was a key figure in the campaign for an equal age of consent at 16, and has addressed a Tory campaign for homosexual equality.

He has always been a noted partygoer and was once a regular in the Strangers' Bar at the Commons. But after memorably making a hash of a speech at a Tory conference, when he forgot his lines, he pledged to change his lifestyle.

Mr. Hayes, 42, was brought up in Epping and attended the local Oratory School, of which he subsequently became a governor. He studied law at the Chelmer Institute in Chelmsford, now part of Anglia Polytechnic University, and practised in Ipswich and London.



Jerry Hayes: his decision to flaunt his friendship surprised even his friends

Mr. Hayes went too. His failure to advance on the government ranks persuaded him to compensate by trying to forge a media career.

But he has never been in much demand for the serious programmes; his role has been predominantly that of a lightweight, occasional wit. He has tried to deploy his media skills in the Commons chamber, one of the most unforgiving forums in which to make a speech. But his soundbites and long pregnant pauses have rarely impressed his colleagues.

Mr. Hayes has few real friends in the Commons, and even those yesterday expressed little sympathy for his

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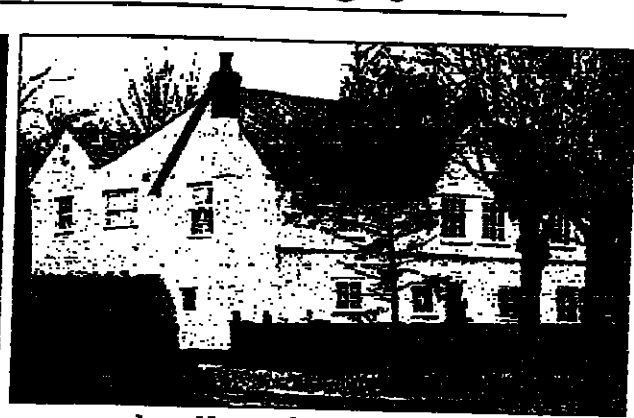
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Jerry Hayes's family home in Essex

Local association members wait to hear from MP

By Joanna Bale

SENIOR members of the Harlow Conservative Association closed ranks yesterday and refused to discuss whether they would demand the resignation of Jerry Hayes. But Conservative supporters in the constituency were less forgiving.

David Roberts, the constituency chairman, who was contacted by Mr. Hayes on Saturday night to warn him that the *News of the World* was about to publish details of the relationship, said the constituency was "standing by" their MP at this stage.

Mr. Roberts said he and other constituency members were "gobsmacked" by the revelations. He went on: "Jerry has always been scrupulously careful in what he does and says. OK, he has done some rather weird television shows by some people's standards in the past that have caused comment but he generally takes great care in how he behaves. I am behind him until I know different."

Asked whether there would be calls for his resignation if it subsequently transpired that he had taken place as Mr. Stone had claimed, Mr. Roberts said: "I don't want to deal in speculation."

"When we have had a chance to talk to Jerry then I will be able to have perhaps a different opinion. At his stage I am with Jerry."

He added: "I have had no irate phone calls from local party activists. I have spoken to one or two people who want to wait until we have

had a chance to talk to Jerry before making any decisions." Mr. Roberts said he did not know precisely where Mr. Hayes was but said that he had been planning to take his children to Disneyland Paris over the Christmas period. The MP's family home is in Wendens Ambo, just outside the constituency.

Mr. Roberts said he did not know where Mr. Hayes was or when he was due back. He said he would be talking to other members of the association. He said: "There is no talk of deselection."

Philip Weales, an association member and former treasurer, said: "I was shocked to hear of the allegations but it is for the constituency to decide what should be done. I find this quite hard to believe."

But Conservative supporters in the constituency were hostile. Graham Easton, 45, a computer programmer said: "He should resign. He has been very foolish with this man. Whether they had sex or not, Mr. Hayes still wrote him love letters which would lay him open to blackmail."

Shirley Dadds, 60, a pensioner, said: "I feel sorry for his wife and children. Although he's quite a good MP, he appears to be a hypocrite. John Major's stand on family values will be an important part of the next election and Jerry would just let the side down."

Darren Scammell, 28, a panel beater, said: "He's an embarrassment and John Major should kick him out."

Journalist murder suspect in jail siege

By Nicholas Watt
Chief Ireland Correspondent

SIX inmates armed with a variety of weapons were holding five prison officers hostage for a second night in the Irish Republic's largest jail. The six include Paul Ward, who is on a second charge of conspiracy to murder the journalist Veronica Guerin.

One other hostage was freed on Saturday night shortly after the inmates barricaded themselves into a recreation hall at Mountjoy prison, Dublin. After negotiations, an official from the Department of Justice and the prison governor, John Loneragan, agreed to allow the prisoners to subsidise their grievances.

In a statement, the Department of Justice said that Paul Ward was protesting his innocence of the charges he is facing. The five others were protesting against living conditions and alleged ill-treatment in the segregation unit. The 19th-century prison has long been plagued with problems of overcrowding. It was built for 400 inmates but currently houses more than 1,000. They include some of the Republic's most notorious criminals, although terrorists are not held there. The segregation unit is due to be refurbished next month.

Cold claims four more lives as freeze continues

By Robin Young

THE bitterly cold weather claimed four more lives yesterday as forecasters predicted that the freezing conditions would continue for another week.

In Warwickshire a man froze to death who had reportedly lain down on a frozen lake after an argument with his girlfriend. He was named as Colin Worrall, 23, of Yardley Green, Birmingham. At Motcombe, Dorset, Christine Taube, 47, was found dead under bushes only 150 yards from her home. She had run after her dog, wearing only a light cardigan and trousers, after being dropped at her front door by a taxi on Saturday afternoon. An overnight search with tracker dogs, a helicopter and infrared equipment failed to find her, but yesterday her body was discovered in a garden close to her home.

An ambulance service spokesman said: "Mrs Taube had obviously collapsed. She was said to have had a bad back, which might have made it difficult for her to get up."

In Selridge, near Folkestone, Kent, a man aged 29 who has not yet been named, was found frozen to death in a neighbour's garden after returning from a party in the early hours of the morning. Police said it was thought he

had become disoriented and collapsed as hypothermia set in. He had removed his shoes, jacket and jumper.

Tony Page, 40, of Birstall, Leicestershire, was walking with his two step-children, aged nine and five, when their dog fell through ice on the River Soar near Leicester. Mr. Page, trying to rescue it, fell through the ice too.

The children raised the alarm and Mr. Page was pulled unconscious from the river after being trapped under the ice for about 30 minutes. He died later in hospital. The dog escaped from the river unharmed.

In Alton, Hampshire, two children were rescued by firemen with ladders after becoming trapped on an island in a pond when a thaw weakened the ice.

The slightly higher temperatures led to floods in factories and offices left empty over the weekend. Kent Fire Brigade said: "A lot of people are having problems, mainly because water tanks have not been drained and pipes are thawing out too quickly."

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre said that the cold weather was now expected to continue for at least another week.

Forecast, page 22

Boy of 16 shot dead dancing at party

By Stewart Tindler
Crime Correspondent

A MAN was questioned by police yesterday after a 16-year-old schoolboy was shot dead on the packed dancefloor of a rave party.

A woman aged 18 was wounded in the incident and other dancers fled the floor in panic at the Chimes club in Clapton, east London. Police said that several weapons were later found at the scene.

The dead boy was believed to be a GCSE student from the Forest Gate area. He was among guests at a party for two young women who were celebrating their seventeenth birthdays. The shootings took place at about 3am yesterday and police believe two men were involved.

One partygoer said: "The club was thumping. Everyone was dancing. There was a flash and then the boy went down. There was blood pouring out of his head and everything just went mad."

The wounded 18-year-old woman was taken to Homerton hospital in Hackney, but was not seriously injured. Armed police sealed off the club as detectives began their investigation.

Scotland Yard said that a man in his 20s was being questioned. He was released later on police bail.

Drug alert over mint with no hole

By Robin Young

SMALL, white, pill-shaped sweets made by Nestlé Rowntree have been added to a toxicology database for police and hospitals because they are being mistaken for drugs.

The sweets are a marketing gimmick from the manufacturers of Polo, which calls them "the holes from the mints". They are individually marked with the letters P, L or O, mystifying teachers who have been confiscating them by the thousand.

They have now been included in a national database of pills and capsules compiled by the Toxicology Unit at St George's Hospital Medical School in

London, produced on CD-Rom for sale to customs officers, police forces and hospitals that might need to identify items that can be dangerous or illegal.

They feature alongside thousands of drugs, medicines and poisons in pill or capsule form, pictured and identified. In the case of the Polo pills, the principal ingredient is nothing more toxic than sugar.

John Ramsay, the unit's head, said yesterday: "We became aware of the problem a few weeks ago when we were asked to identify one by the Poisons Information Service in Birmingham."

"There must have been hundreds of inquiries so we thought it was something we needed to have identified in the

database. It is not a waste of our time. We would far rather have people pick up something which they think might be poisonous than leave it where children could find it." Mr. Ramsay said it was irresponsible of Nestlé Rowntree to produce a sweet that could be so widely and easily mistaken for a drug.

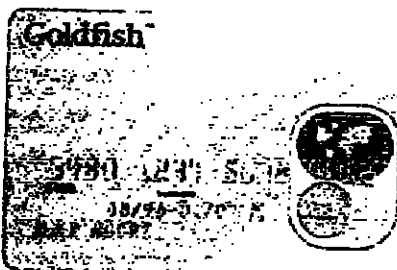
A spokesman for the company said it was concerned that the product had caused alarm but added: "The sweet is thicker than most pills and has a glossy surface, unlike most pills, which tend to be matt. We feel the sweets should be easily distinguishable." The sweets had been produced as a limited edition and would disappear from the shops as stocks ran out, he said.

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Universities set up special loan deal to attract students

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of universities is preparing its own student loans scheme to tempt scholars away from rivals and to curb the rising drop-out rate. A dozen institutions in the upper reaches of the research league table have formed a consortium with Midland Bank to offer an exclusive loan package to graduate students.

The Times understands other deals are being negotiated with private lenders. Vice-chancellors are also being urged to take over the Government's Student Loans Company when it is put out to tender this year to ensure that undergraduates get the best possible repayment terms.

The universities involved have 27,000 graduate students. They are Bath, Durham, East Anglia, Exeter, Essex, Reading, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, York and the London University institu-

tions Birkbeck College and the London School of Economics. The move reflects widespread concern about the financial pressures on students that are leading them to work harder at their part-time jobs than at their degrees. Students are widely expected to have to pay more towards their education, although the Government deferred a decision by setting up the Dearing inquiry into higher education, to report next summer. The 94 Group of universities, formed in 1994 to co-operate on mutual concerns, said it could not wait that long before launching its own loan scheme for postgraduates.

Ivor Crewe, Vice-Chancellor of Essex, which led negotiations with the Midland, said up to 400 potential masters students pulled out every year from Essex alone. Professor Crewe said: "The 12 universi-

ties in the consortium are advising in all of their student recruitment publicity the existence of the scheme. It will be up to them whether to apply for a loan. If they do, they will talk to the Midland Bank."

The scheme, planned for October, will allow postgraduates seven years to repay loans of up to £10,000, or £5,000 for one-year courses. No payments would be due until six months after completing the course and would be at 2 per cent over base rate, or 1 per cent for selected subjects, including medicine and law.

Vernon Vandellinde, Vice-Chancellor at Bath, said he could see the scheme being extended to undergraduates. "There was an obvious gap in the market for postgraduate students we thought we might be able to have some impact on. If an undergraduate came to us we would probably call up the local Midland Bank and say, 'We have this other student, could you extend the same deal to them.'"

Students criticised the universities for acting in advance of the Dearing report, and forecast that they would form a "super league". Ewan Jenkins, president of Durham Students' Union, said: "The fact that these loans are only available to students in a very small number of institutions takes us away from a mass participation system. They disregard the fact that ability to learn, not to pay, must be the predominant entrance factor for any course."

The call for universities to take over the Student Loans Company comes from academics at the LSE, the only institution so far to prepare course fees for 1998 entrants. Iain Crawford and Nicholas Barr, at the LSE's Centre for Education Research, estimate a takeover would cost each university £20,000, if the Government successfully sold off the company's existing £2 billion of debt.

Mr Crawford said: "Universities are the ideal bodies for administering student loans because they would always be motivated to act in the interests of the borrower."

Graduates will find jobs hunt easier

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION for top graduate jobs will be less fierce this summer, because vacancies are increasing at a faster rate than student numbers for the first time in five years.

Students have had to battle hard for plum jobs during the 1990s, but the Association of Graduate Recruiters yesterday forecast an 11.5 per cent rise in vacancies. This summer's graduates who find a job will start on an average salary of £15,325, the association forecast. Starting pay rose by 4.4 per cent in 1996, compared with the rise in average earnings of 3.7 per cent, and is likely to increase by a similar amount this year.

Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, said: "The number of traditional graduate jobs stayed the same almost throughout the recession, but the number of graduates coming out of the university system has doubled over the past five years. For the first

time since then, the number of vacancies is going up faster than the rate of increase in people looking for them. We are actually winning for the first time in five years."

The association's annual survey showed, however, that more than a third of big recruiters said they could not find suitable graduates for scientific, engineering, research and development and technical jobs, particularly those in computing. The association, which represents employers as diverse as Marks & Spencer, Midland Bank, the Police Service and Unilever, said that it was difficult to find graduates in those areas with the right blend of technical and communication skills.

Mr Cockman added that the association would like to see university courses deliver the skills employers needed. "This means more teamwork and project work and less straightforward lecturing."

Children need not fear me, says man accused of Dunblane threat

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE former soldier who allegedly threatened to "do a Dunblane" has decided not to challenge a High Court injunction that bans him from schools and council buildings. But, within hours of his release from jail, David Jennings renewed his long-running protest against Greenwich council in southeast London.

In a three-hour interview ending at 3.36am on the night he was freed, Jennings set out a litany of complaints about the care of four of his ten children. His comments raised fears among former neighbours that he would revive other grudges.

At a hearing in London today, at which the council will seek to make the injunction permanent, he hopes to read a statement to the judge saying that he never threatened to attack children. He will also offer an undertaking not to approach schools or council buildings.

"The London Borough of Greenwich has gone completely off the rails, printing photographs of myself and sending them to every parent in Greenwich as if I was Jesse James," he said. "The matter has been blown out of all proportion."

6 There was no way that I was ever going to go to any schools

Driven by a belief that the authorities failed to protect his children, Jennings, 51, makes lengthy accusations of conspiracy against headmasters, foster parents, social workers, prison officers, magistrates and judges.

His solicitor has admitted that the Dunblane threat was made to a prison chaplain, but Jennings said that his words had been misconstrued. "There was no way that I was ever going to go to any schools, and that has been the case all the way along."

Jennings, who has a conviction for possessing a firearm in public, left Swaleston prison, Kent, on Friday. He has been staying at the home of his second wife, Samantha, 29, in Abbey Wood, southeast London.

He was jailed for affray in November 1995 after throwing rubble through the window of Peter Bailey, 34, his neigh-

bour in nearby Eltham. He claimed that Mr Bailey had harassed his wife. Mr Bailey, recalled last night, having to dodge flying slabs, rocks and glass as he tried to protect his children and to call the police while Jennings broke every window at the rear of his house. "He is the sort of bloke who, if he gets pressurised, will do something violent," he said.

Other residents remembered Jennings as a "nightmare" council tenant. Mothers have since signed a petition demanding strong legal action and increased security at schools.

Jennings served as a private in the Middlesex Regiment from 1965 to 1968, but he denied reports that he had fired at his commanding officer in Guyana, saying the reverse was true. After leaving the Army he worked for two years as a motorcycle assembler for Norton, but was made redundant and has worked only occasionally since.

A spokeswoman for Greenwich Council said last night: "We would deny categorically any conspiracy against Mr Jennings. We shall be going before the judge evidence which convinces us that we should be seeking this permanent injunction."

Le Shuttle resumes services for coach travellers

By A STAFF REPORTER

COACH traffic will be allowed back on Le Shuttle trains from today. Travellers will, however, have to reserve places in advance on the limited number of services running between Folkestone and Calais since the blaze on a freight shuttle in November.

A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said: "The car shuttles comprise single and double-deck wagons, with the singledeckers designed to carry coaches and other high-sided vehicles."

"We will resume carrying these vehicles on the car shuttles, which are currently running at a rate of two an hour in each direction, though they will have to reserve in advance."

The announcement means that only heavy goods vehicles, which are carried on separate trains, have not yet resumed services. It is not known when lorry traffic will be able to restart.

A section of the northbound tunnel was badly damaged and 34 people were injured after a lorry on one of the freight wagons caught fire. An investigation into the cause of the original blaze is still being conducted by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority.

Fire brigade unions and MPs criticised a decision by the authority to allow freight trains to resume services just three days after the blaze, and Eurostar and car shuttles weeks later.

Part of the tunnel is still closed and trains have adopted a "cross-over" procedure, using the central service tunnel, to avoid the damaged section.

The tunnel has been dogged by problems since the fire, including a minor blaze as engineers tried to move the damaged train days after the first blaze.

Two weeks ago, a stationary Le Shuttle train intended for use as an evacuation vehicle caught fire at the Folkestone terminal because of a wiring fault. Last week two Eurostar trains were stranded in the tunnel after electrical faults developed.



David Jennings yesterday with his wife, Samantha. He says that his comments on Dunblane were misconstrued.

Machete attack nurse returns

THE nursery nurse who fought off a machete attacker at an infants' school in Wolverhampton returns to work tomorrow.

Lisa Potts, 21, has visited the pupils at St Luke's Church of England school in Blakenhall since the attack last July but has not been well enough to resume teaching. She was praised by a judge for trying to protect the children as Horrold Campbell, a paranoid schizophrenic, lashed out at pupils, parents and staff with a 2ft machete. Last month Campbell was found guilty of seven charges of attempted murder. He is due to be sentenced next month.

Ms Potts suffered gashes to her arms and cuts to her back as she tried to shepherd the children inside the building. The three children injured in the attack returned to school in the autumn.

St Luke's reopened a week after the attack. Fences were set up around the school and security alarms issued to staff.

Nurses' lawyers seek talks over withdrawn confessions

By STEPHEN FARRELL AND ROGER MAYNARD

THE two British nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia have withdrawn their confessions and an admission that one had an affair with the victim, Yvonne Gilford, their lawyers said yesterday.

After their first meeting with Saudi legal representatives since their arrest, Deborah Parry, 41, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, retracted the written statements sworn before three Saudi judges on December 23. The lawyers claimed yesterday that the admissions had been made only after police promised that they would not face prosecution for the murder of Ms Gilford, 58, an Australian nurse at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran.

The women, both wearing the traditional Muslim chador, met three Saudi lawyers, a British legal representative and a consul for an hour in separate meetings at Dammam central prison on Saturday. They are concerned that their case will be tarnished by reports in Saudi newspapers that they were arrested after being seen on video film at a shopping centre using Miss Gilford's charge cards.

The written statements [of confessions] included an admission of a lesbian relationship between Deborah Parry and Yvonne Gilford. Deborah Parry vehemently denied to us that such a relationship had existed," said a statement from the law firm of Salah al-Hejailan, issued at the women's request.

The written statements also included an admission that the two nurses had taken Yvonne Gilford's bank card after the murder and had used this to withdraw cash on several occasions over the following days. Both nurses strongly denied this to us.

"The suspects said that they had made these statements to the police because they were promised that, if they did so,

they would be allowed to see the British Consul, would be sent home in two to three weeks and would not be subject to prosecution in Saudi Arabia."

The firm emphasised that both nurses had only recently arrived in Saudi Arabia, did not know Miss Gilford well, and had been "very confused and apprehensive" after their arrest. The lawyers would be discussing the retraction with the authorities as soon as possible.

Ms McLauchlan's brother, John, insisted yesterday that the family had confidence in the country's Sharia courts. "We are very grateful to the Saudi Arabian authorities for providing my sister with the best possible legal representation. We have faith in the Saudi justice system and we feel sure that Lucy will be found innocent of any crimes," he said. He also extended the family's sympathies to Miss Gilford's family.

Princess's visit suggests royal thaw

By ALAN HAMILTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales, is to visit Angola next week on behalf of the Red Cross, despite severing her connections with the charity at the time of last summer's divorce.

During her five-day visit, which has the approval of the Queen and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Princess will see a British operation to clear millions of landmines planted during the country's 20-year civil war. She will stay as a guest of the British Ambassador in the Angolan capital, Luanda.

The Princess stepped down from the British Red Cross after acting as patron during their 125th anniversary celebrations. Her decision to restore the link is understood to have been the result of a personal appeal from the film-maker Lord Attenborough. Approval from the Queen for the semi-official working visit is an indication that Buckingham Palace is keen to restore good relations



The Prince of Wales with Prince Harry yesterday

with the Princess now that her divorce is out of the way. Planned visits to other trouble spots, including Bosnia and Afghanistan, are likely to receive the Queen's approval.

Conscious of the damage done to the monarchy's reputation by the Waleses' divorce, the Palace is keen to mend fences. An opinion poll com-

missioned by Carlton TV for a live debate tomorrow shows that 48 per cent of Britons believe the Crown will be replaced by a republic within 50 years. The MORI survey found that 37 per cent thought the Royal Family were hard working, half thought they were important for Britain, and 22 per cent regard them as highly respected. However, 19 per cent view them as irresponsible, and the number who believe the Royal Family had high moral standards is 8 per cent.

At Klosters, the Prince of Wales's skiing holiday with Prince Harry was marred by a fall from a horse, the result of injuries from the Prince's "action man" youth and his career as a polo player. As father and son hurtled down a snow-covered hillside on a two-man toboggan, the 12-year-old squealed with delight while his father grimaced when the sledge bumped over a ridge of snow.

The ride was a prelude to another full day's skiing. As the toboggan came to a halt in front of reporters and cameramen, the Prince of Wales patted his son on both shoulders. But Prince Harry, anxious to be off again, tugged at the sledge's reins and they proceeded at speed downhill, leaving only the Prince of Wales's shout of "Au revoir" hanging in the mountain air.

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Police look to private firms for sponsorship cash



Mohamed Al Fayed in Harrods-sponsored car

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces aim to raise up to £70 million a year from sponsorship deals to fund patrol cars, police stations and crime-fighting strategies.

The logos of some of the biggest companies are already appearing on the sides of police cars and may soon be seen on uniforms. Crime prevention campaigns against drug abuse, computer theft and poaching have received commercial cash.

Sponsorship projects under way include an £8,000 mobile police station for the West End area of

Newcastle upon Tyne, provided by a local brewery. In Yorkshire, police patrol in a Peugeot 306 provided by the road-builder, Balfour-Beatty.

The deals stem from new Home Office regulations that allow forces to raise up to 1 per cent of their annual budgets from sponsorship.

One senior police official said: "It's been forbidden territory until recently. Now everything is up for grabs." Normally forces rule out any endorsement of a company and require each deal to be carefully investigated and decisions on logos to be taken at senior level.

North Yorkshire, Cleveland, Gloucestershire, Cambridgeshire

and West Yorkshire have formed marketing teams. Humberside is appointing a marketing officer and the West Midlands force may do the same. The City of London has begun formulating a policy.

The Metropolitan Police is recruiting a sponsorship expert to raise more than £16 million a year. He or she will come from academic or charity fundraising and work with senior officers on the guidelines.

Companies interested in sponsorship will be carefully vetted and the use of logos and wording on police equipment examined to make sure they are not inappropriate. One

senior Yard source said: "We are not going to get into bed with someone who is trying to wash themselves clean. It has got to be someone with a reputation that does not tarnish us. Both sides have got to get something out of it."

He said the Yard had merely tinkered with such deals so far. Sponsorship for cars was worth only £5,000 to £10,000 and the bigger projects had been worth less than £100,000 each. The new policy and appointment plan mark an attempt to co-ordinate the effort and tap a much bigger market.

The Yard already has a car sponsored by Harrods, which is used by

special constables in west London. McDonald's recently provided £50,000 for an anti-drug video and Esso gave money for a wildlife crime project. The Crimestoppers scheme is also backed by businesses, and many companies have contributed to a £1 million reward fund for combating terrorism.

In Surrey a fleet of cars for a national police course in high-speed chases have been donated by Vauxhall and carries logos. The car radios come from a communications company. In Saltaire, west Yorkshire, a group of businesses has funded a village police "shop", complete with blue lamp, by paying

the £3,000 rent on a house for a year. Land Rover has provided Thames Valley with one vehicle for a rural crime prevention patrol.

But the course of partnership is not always smooth. A van sponsored by Avon and Somerset police had to have the logo reduced in size because of objections. The Police Federation, representing junior ranks, argues that sponsorship is no substitute for proper police funding. Fred Broughton, chairman of the federation, said he feared a conflict of interests which could leave the public believing some companies received preferential treatment.

Urban rich 'are main drug-users'

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROSPEROUS professionals living in smart inner-city and urban areas are the biggest users of illegal drugs, according to government studies of drug misuse. But these affluent residents are the least worried by criminal activity linked to drugs.

Home Office studies of "rising", "striving" and "settling" neighbourhoods found drug misuse was so widespread that it included churchgoers.

The highest level of drug-taking in the 19 to 59 age group was found in households with an income of more than £30,000 a year in neighbourhoods categorised as "rising". Other characteristics of these residents was that they tended to be health-conscious, took holidays off the beaten track and frequently ate out.

Malcolm Ramsay, one of the report's authors, said: "The use of prohibited drugs is seen by people who have everything else going in their lives as something they can handle to some degree: something they can dip in and dip out of."

In the rising neighbourhoods, 59 per cent of people between 16 and 29 admitted using drugs at some time and 24 per cent had used

them in the previous month, compared with 42 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in the less well-off council estates that were defined as striving areas. In the settling districts, made up of privately owned homes and largely skilled workers, the figures were 38 per cent and 11 per cent.

Among the 30 to 59 age group in rising districts, 44 per cent said they had taken drugs in their lifetime and 5 per cent in the past month, compared with 22 and 3 per cent in striving areas and 21 and 1 per cent in settling districts.

The report, called *Drug Misuse Declared*, says of the rising group: "These are people who are young, possibly single, generally without children. Even the older people in such neighbourhoods are substantially more likely to take drugs than those living elsewhere." The study was based on findings from 9,646 people in 1994.

A separate study of attitudes to drug-related crime found that residents of council estates were most concerned and those in the rising group were least anxious. The report adds that most young people have not taken prohibited drugs.

Strokes made worse by suicide cells

BY NIGEL HAWKES
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

SCIENTISTS have discovered that much of the damage caused by paralysis after strokes and spinal cord injuries comes from cells "committing suicide" when toxins are released by the brain.

The research could lead to drugs blocking the effect of the toxins and preventing paralysis. Scientists already knew that only part of the damage experienced by stroke victims was caused by the stroke itself. Researchers at Manchester University, funded by the

charity Research into Ageing, have now identified a chemical, interleukin-1 or IL-1, which plays an important part in cell suicide. Professor Nancy Rothwell said: "Blocking the action of IL-1 dramatically reduces stroke damage, inhibits brain swelling and inflammation." A quarter of stroke victims die and half of survivors are disabled.

Separate research in America has found that much of the damage from spinal cord injuries is not done at the time, but in the succeeding three weeks, when a wave of "suicides" runs through the nerve cells.



Judy Clementson: says the mandate from the 1975 referendum has run out

Goldsmith party candidates put youth to the fore

BY RUTH WINSTONE

THEY have been denounced as a barrow army, old flag-waving little Englanders. Sir James Goldsmith's rabble. They are the 530 candidates selected so far to stand for the Referendum Party.

A few star names have been announced, but what of the rest? According to a survey by *The Times* of 300 chosen by the beginning of December, their average age is about 46 — slightly older than the Conservative average of 41 and Labour's 45, but younger than media stereotypes of retired colonels. A substantial number were too young to vote in the 1975 referendum, in which the youngest elector would now be 39.

That is their opening argument. One of those too young in 1975 was John Mackfall. Now 36 and a traffic warden, he is challenging a Conservative majority of 18,000 in Ryedale, Yorkshire. He is director of the local Harley Davidson motorcycle club, chairman of his union branch, has no strong political affiliations and believes in progressive social policies. He does not have much time for politicians but says: "Someone has to offer the electorate a choice."

Among the youngest candidates is Craig Robinson, a 25-year-old telecommunications consultant fighting Basildon, where the Tory majority is 14,000. He sees advantages in co-operation with other EU countries — on fishing, pollution and peace — and wants Britain to be a good member state, but says that Maastricht is a treaty too far.

Judy Clementson, 48, a grandmother and roller-blading fan, is fighting Virginia Bottomley's Surrey seat. She said: "I voted in favour in 1975, but that mandate has run out. Electors lend powers to their MPs for five years. These cannot be given away indefinitely."

Christopher McGovern, 46, a primary teacher who lost his job as a secondary school

history teacher after criticising "GCSE standards", has been advising the Government on its history curriculum. He is the candidate fighting for Hastings and Rye. He argues that federal models cannot survive against national interests and identity.

The party claims growing support, suggesting last week that it had recruited its 100,000th supporter. Its central tenet is that there has been a failure of democratic representation in politics.

The candidates have nothing like the support or infrastructure of the other parties. Chosen by a central panel, their local organisation has to be built from scratch. The party has no formal membership or subscription system, and candidates put up their own deposits.

The most recent candidate is Ruth Gurney, 48, a lay assessor with Birmingham Social Services and a widow with six children, who will fight Clare Short's seat in Ladywood. In the past, Miss Gurney dabbled with the Young Socialists and converted to the Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher. She was moved to become a Referendum Party candidate by a *Panorama* profile of Sir James.



Craig Robinson, 25: one of youngest candidates

Scientists find heart defect gene

Scientists have identified the gene behind an inherited condition which can lead to babies being born with a hole in the heart. Holt-Oram syndrome affects the development of the heart and forearm.

A team led by Professor David Brook, at Nottingham University, tracked down the gene responsible, HOS-1. A paper on the research, which was backed by the British Heart Foundation, appears in this month's *Nature Genetics*.

Weekend in jail

Peter Curzon, 45, heir to Viscount Scarsdale, will appear in the High Court today after spending the weekend in jail for failing to pay a £575,000 divorce settlement agreed last June. He was arrested after he flew to Britain from Florida.

999 death crash

A teenager was killed when he was hit by a police car answering an emergency call. Ian McClure, 18, of Irvine, North Ayrshire, died at the scene of the accident in the town centre. A report is to be prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

Private lines

Three more rail lines have started running privatised services. First Bus, GB Railways and Virgin Rail are operating out of London's East Anglia. Virgin Group chairman Richard Branson says the "CrossCountry"

Lasagne recall

Asda has recalled packs of frozen lasagne which may have been filled in error with a vegetable baste containing cashew nuts. The recall affects 400g packs with a best-before date of November 1997 and the code ERK 63161.

Garden quarry

A man sweeping his patio was sucked into a 100ft hole that opened up beneath him. Stephen Owen, 28, managed to scramble clear after becoming wedged in the top of what was thought to be an old quarry shaft at his home in Sheffield.

Happy returns

Villagers in Gotherington, Gloucestershire, who donated £10,000 30 years ago towards a church that was never built, are being asked if they want their money back. The money has grown to £65,000 in a church bank account.

Nod and a wink

Christine Wiggins, 24, has become the first woman council member of the English Tiddlywinks Association since its formation in 1955. Ms Wiggins, ranked third in the world, was chosen as chairman in a secret ballot.

Hormone replacement can rejuvenate men as well as women

THE last eunuch to have served the Chinese Imperial family, who died last week aged 94, and an actor who is as appealing to my 50-year-old female patients as he is to their 25-year-old daughters, are linked by the influence a lack of testosterone has had on their lives.

Nobody would doubt that poor Sun Yao-ting, whose testes were removed by his father wielding a cut-throat razor when he was eight, had been short of testosterone all his life. It is, however, hard to

believe that nature, and the ageing process, have similarly deprived Charles Dance of an adequate supply of the same hormone. But he claims — and his doctors agree — that the male menopause has done just that. Testosterone supplies the virility to the physical and psychological make-up of a man; sharpens the competitive edge to his professional endeavours; adds spice to his social life; and is the basis of his libido.

Malcolm Carruthers, a consultant chemical pathologist,



has made a speciality of the study of male hormonal problems. He has contrasted the tall, thin, eunuchoid build, like that of Sun Yao-ting when he was younger, with that of Napoleon Bonaparte, who was highly sexed in his youth. As a young man Napoleon

was stocky, robust, hirsute and — there is sculptural evidence — well endowed sexually. In middle age, however, he appeared to have suffered the male menopause, genital atrophy and, presumably, impotence.

Dr Carruthers has for many

years advocated that men, as well as women, need hormone replacement in middle age and that, given this, they would keep their physical and mental powers more youthful and preserve their sex lives.

Testosterone is now available as an injection, in tablets (which are not always effective), or as a slow-release skin patch. The skin patch, worn like a sticking plaster applied to a hairless part of the body, provides a regular supply of testosterone which compensates for the falling testes.

Caution is needed. Cancer of the prostate, a common disease in older men, is hormone-dependant, and falling testosterone levels in the elderly may protect men from its ravages. Before embarking on rejuvenation, it is essential that the state of this potentially lethal gland, the prostate, should be assessed.

Those who should not take testosterone can resort to another piece of Dr Carruthers' advice and adopt an aphrodisiac menu. Champagne, followed by a starter

which should include goat's cheese, a main course of steak with buttered new potatoes, and salad, and finally a chocolate pudding topped with walnuts, will apparently do wonders for both the male and female libido. Dr Carruthers assures us that this is the ideal meal and, as a chemical pathologist, he should understand the science which accounts for his judgment.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

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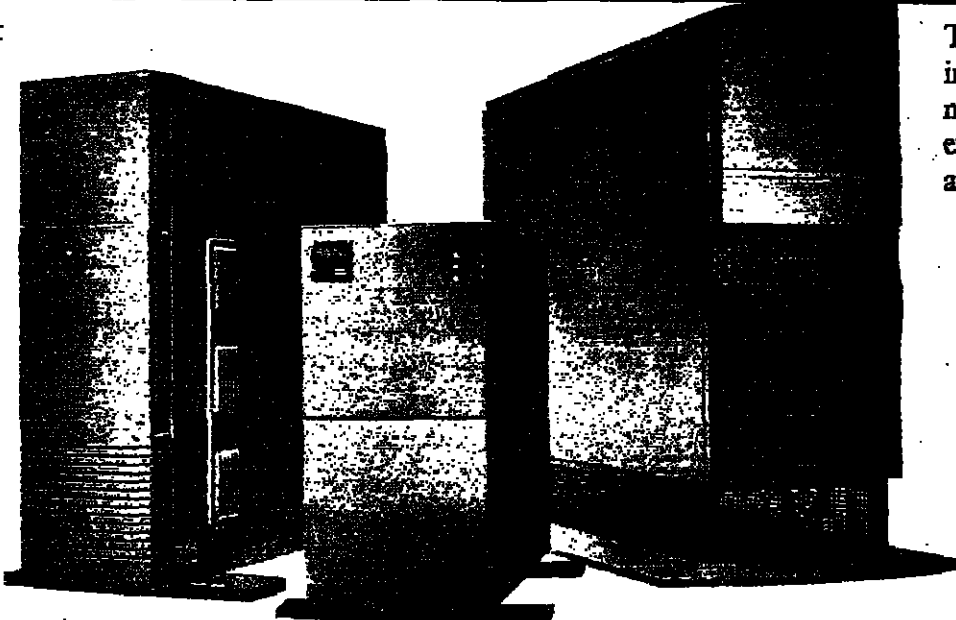
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مركز من الأصل

Secret summit fails to agree deal on Hebron pull-out

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A SECRET pre-dawn meeting between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority, yesterday failed to break the deadlock over an Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron.

The covert attempt to defuse the crisis over the delayed pull-out from 80 per cent of the city reflected increasing pressure from Washington for a deal. The four hours of talks took place at the Erez crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

First news of the meeting came from Israel Radio five hours after it ended. But expectations were swiftly dashed when both sides acknowledged that an agreement had still not yet been achieved.

Mr Netanyahu expressed regret later that the secrecy of the meeting had been broken, because he believed that keeping details from the media could have served to boost confidence.

Although, in an effort to maintain the momentum of negotiations, both sides later spoke of "progress", Palestinian officials said the refusal of Israel to provide a detailed, agreed timetable for the next three Israeli withdrawals after Hebron remained the main obstacle.

Nabil Shaath, a leading member of the Palestinian Authority and one of the first

officials to speak openly about the secret talks, said: "I think that some positive things were achieved, but we still have a major problem with the schedule of withdrawal after Hebron."

Israeli sources have angrily accused Mr Arafat of deliberately delaying a deal by making the timetable for further pullbacks an essential condition of his signature to the withdrawal from Hebron, where tensions have reached dangerous levels. But the Palestinians counter that such a timetable is vital because of the delays surrounding Israel's takeover of Hebron, originally scheduled for last March but delayed by a series of suicide bombings.

According to the interim agreement of September 1995, the withdrawal from most of Hebron, where 450 Jewish settlers live, surrounded by 120,000 Arabs, should be followed by three further troop redeployments. The first of these, from mainly rural areas, should have begun last September.

One Israeli source said last night that Israel was willing to commit itself to a date for the first withdrawal, expected to be from Halhoul, near Hebron, six weeks after that from Hebron. But Mr Netanyahu has opposed providing dates for the second and third withdrawals.

A leading member of his Likud Party said he was now

in a "Catch 22 situation". If he makes no further concessions on the dates, he might not have a deal, but if he makes concessions, he will fail to secure a majority in his 18-member Cabinet.

Ahmed Tibi, Mr Arafat's senior adviser, told Israeli Army radio: "There will not be an agreement unless there is a commitment on the three phases." But Saeb Erekat, a leading member of the Palestinian negotiating team, said other issues also had to be resolved.

In a move to defuse the present tensions, Jewish settlers agreed yesterday to remove seven mobile homes from a disputed West Bank hill. The move came after the Israeli Defence Ministry made the evacuation a condition for discussing demands to expand the settlement in memory of two Jewish settlers murdered near there by Palestinians last month.



Water bursts through a levee in Modesto, California, at the weekend, flooding farmland to a depth of 15ft. Thirty-seven of the state's counties were declared disaster areas, as well as 13 in Idaho. Twenty-three deaths have been blamed on the week-long storms

Gingrich faces new ethics accusations

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CLAIMS that Newt Gingrich had ruled out stepping aside as Republican Speaker and that there was a new ethics charge hanging over him were made yesterday as Democrats and Republicans bitterly traded barbs over tomorrow's vote to re-elect him.

Washington's obsession with the Gingrich case means that even if he is re-elected, it will be with his clout diminished and his reputation tarnished by ethics woes.

The suggestion that Mr Gingrich might remove himself from the race was made by a fellow Republican, Matt Salmon, an Arizona congressman who had urged Mr Gingrich to step aside while his case was still under investigation. Mr Salmon said that when he spoke to Mr Gingrich on Friday, the Speaker said that that might still be a possibility.

It was entirely possible other Republicans might agree with the idea after listening to Mr Gingrich put his case to them today, with the understanding that they would elect a caretaker Speaker until Mr Gingrich's case was resolved, when he would be returned to office, Mr Salmon claimed. The proposition that Mr Gingrich was even thinking of withdrawing was instantly denied by Republican leaders.

A Democratic claim that Mr Gingrich faces unresolved problems was a last-minute attempt to unsettle Republicans whose leaders were braced for

any outcome but remained confident they had won over enough voters by non-stop lobbying.

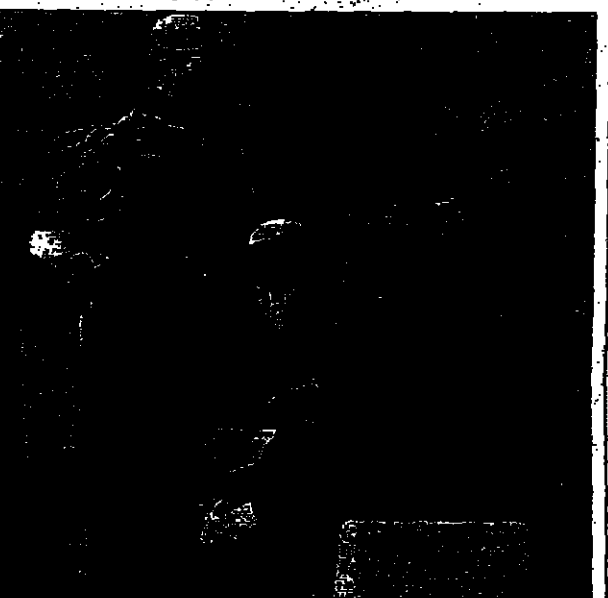
David Bonior, the Democratic whip who is on a crusade to oust Mr Gingrich, claimed to have a new complaint pending with the ethics committee about \$10 million to \$20 million (£6 million to £12 million) raised by Gopac, Mr Gingrich's political action committee.

Appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Mr Bonior said: "We don't know who gave him the money, how much they had won over enough voters by non-stop lobbying."

Working from his home in Georgia, Mr Gingrich has been trying to phone all 227 House Republicans to plead for their votes. This evening he will address members en masse behind closed doors on Capitol Hill to press his case for remaining in charge.

If only 20 Republicans abstain, tomorrow they will defeat Mr Gingrich and could hand the Speaker's gavel to Richard Gephardt, the Democratic leader.

Leading article, page 19



A young Jew sits outside the Beit Hadassah settlement in Hebron as an Israeli patrol goes about its work

Tense city lives on a knife-edge as enmity deepens

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AS NEWS of the secret talks between Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat leaked out, a petrol bomb was thrown yesterday at a building occupied by Jewish settlers in the centre of Hebron.

The daytime attack caused no injuries, but it was the latest in a series of incidents heightening tension in the city which, under the Oslo-brokered peace accord, is to revert to Palestinian self rule.

"Anything could happen at any moment," Daniel Gundersen, a Norwegian peace observer, said. He had broken his new year holiday to return to Hebron over fears of a new security crisis, whether or not the long-delayed Israeli pull-out takes place.

Nayef Hashlamoun, a Palestinian photographer who, with other foreign cameramen, is on duty round the clock to film any violence said: "The Israelis and the Palestinians are living on their nerves. There is a feeling that the city could explode at any minute, causing clashes that could spread to the rest of the occupied West Bank."

He was one of the photographers whose pictures of last week's near-massacre, when Noman Friedman, 22, a religiously motivated Israeli soldier wounded six Palestinians before being overpowered by another Israeli, brought home to the world the tinder-box atmosphere in Hebron.

Over the past 72 hours there has been a rash of incidents as rumours circulate about the imminence or not of a deal to withdraw Israeli troops from 80 per cent of the city — the burial place of the biblical patriarch Abraham. The attacks are symptomatic of ill feeling on both sides that has reached a peak not seen since Baruch Goldstein, a Jewish settler, massacred 29 Arab worshippers in 1994.

their barracks adjoining the new "front line" — a 280-yard stretch of asphalt known as Martyrs' Street where many of the 450 Jewish settlers live — and intervened to prevent a fight between four Arab teenagers and a group of Jewish students in a school.

The youths had been spitting and hurling insults at each other in a fashion that has become common on the street, closed to Palestinian vehicles since the Goldstein massacre. The street symbolises the resentment felt by Hebron's 120,000 Arab residents towards the Jews.

The fracas had been preceded by one of the false alarms that could easily trigger bloodshed. Peter Foulds, a British cameraman and a veteran of the Bosnian conflict, said: "It happened on Friday. There was shooting from the Palestinian area and the Israelis got into battle positions before they realised that it was nothing more than traditional firing (of weapons) at a local Arab wedding."

At the weekend another layer of the hatred was displayed when a right-wing rabbi approached Lieutenant Avi Buskila, the Israeli soldier hailed as a hero for wrestling Friedman to the ground. Referring to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the late Prime Minister, by a religious Jew, the rabbi from Kiryat Arba settlement snidely reminded the soldier that "Rabin, too, was a hero".

Close to the spot where last week's shooting took place is a sign highlighting the blood feuds that have made the conflict in Hebron so deep-seated. "This property was built on Jewish property stolen by the Arabs after the 1929 massacre," the message reads, in a reminder that no Jewish resident of Hebron has forgotten that 67 Jews were killed here by Arabs under the British Mandate.

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The DISCOVERY DIET GUIDE

Food scientists now believe that diets should be tailored to the individual. All this week The Times will help you to find out what's wrong with your eating habits and which foods are right for you



Does science have the answer?

WE ARE regularly assailed by new eating philosophies, never more urgently than just after the traditional Christmas binge. These philosophies range from full-blown diets which promise instant weight loss through to occasional bulletins from the Department of Health imploring the public to eat more fresh food.

Celebrities also have a lot to answer for. When Elizabeth Hurley said that she was a devotee of food combining, in which different food types such as proteins or carbohydrates are eaten in specific permutations, this revelation was dissected in detail and no doubt inspired many others

to try it. However, one dominant trend is emerging. Food scientists no longer assume that a diet that works for one person will work for everyone. Indeed, research published by the *British Medical Journal* last week shows that diets based on counting calories are less effective than those which concentrate on the types of food eaten.

Blanket dietary advice is out, and in its place has come nutritional advice specific to the individual. The field of nutritional therapy — founded on the premise that each person is biochemically unique and has different sustenance requirements — is booming. The concept that diets should

be tailored to individuals ties in with more academic studies on the way we eat, or should be eating.

The latest research has indicated that individuals vary widely in their biochemical responses to food, and this is down to the balance of different proteins in each person.

One important implication is that if you want to eat foods that are good for you, then don't necessarily look to government guidelines. And, since the production of proteins is regulated by our genetic make-up, it stands to reason that our diets should be dictated by our DNA.

This most pioneering research has been

carried out by Dr Gary Williamson, head of cellular metabolism and enzymology at the Institute for Food Research in Norwich. He has shown that when human liver cells are fed chemicals found naturally in vegetables, they show a huge variation in biochemical response.

Dr Williamson's research has focused on fruit and vegetables, which should make up a substantial part of a healthy diet. For example, broccoli, onion and garlic are known to stimulate production of a protective chemical called *is-alpha*. Natural levels in the body can vary thirtyfold across the population. "That is why it is more important for people at the lowest end of the scale to eat more of these vegetables," says Dr Williamson.

This is very simple, but scientifically rigorous proof that the same diet can have different effects on different people. One has only to look at a population of thriving centenarians for further evidence — many appear to put their longevity down to cigarettes, whisky or fat-laden fry-ups, while that lifestyle clearly puts other people at risk.

So how do we go about finding out what we should eat? Dr Williamson has a radical view of the future. He says: "I wouldn't be surprised if, in ten years, we could walk into a supermarket and get a biochemical test done. Then you could

'In ten years we could have biochemical tests at the supermarket to determine what we should buy'

adapt your diet accordingly. It isn't far-fetched by any means. That's what people said about cholesterol tests, and these are now routinely done by GPs and used to give dietary advice."

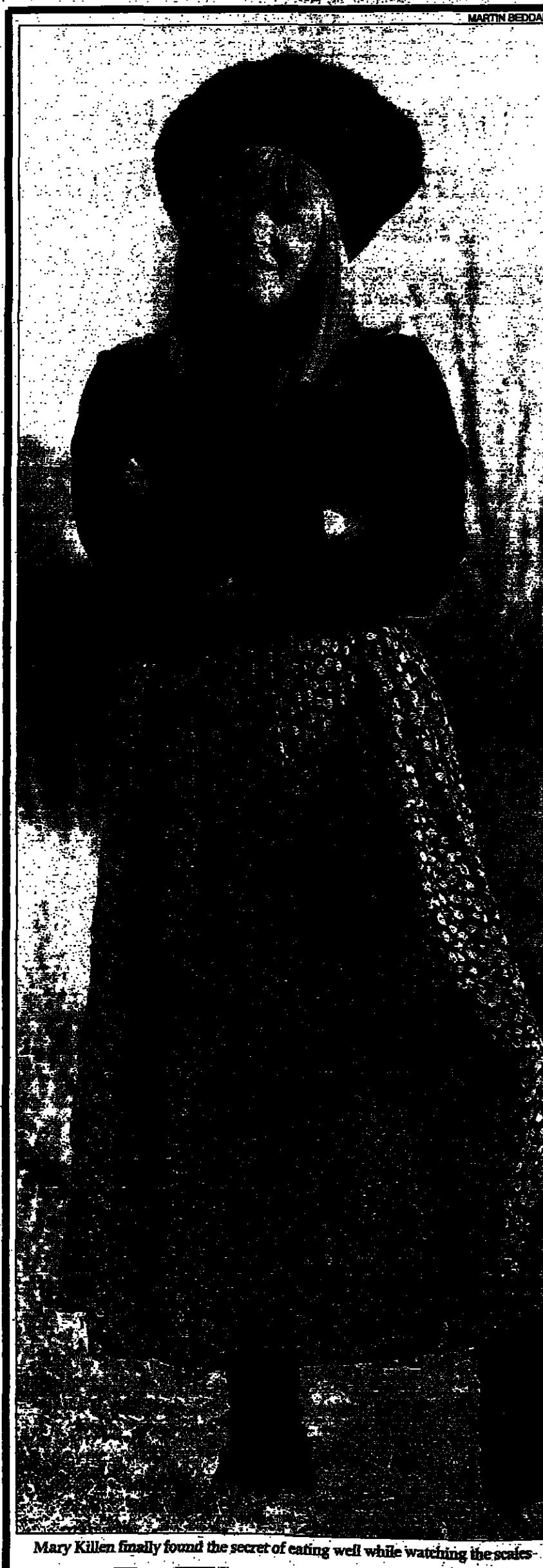
But ten years is a long time. This is where the nutritional therapist comes in. Equipped with an impressive armoury of laboratory tests, he or she can already offer this brand of made-to-measure eating plan. And many of these plans go further than weight loss — some therapists claim to be able to cure maladies. Their advice ranges from the general right through to vitamin and mineral supplements and recipes.

People turn to nutritional therapy for many reasons — perhaps they have developed a food intolerance, prefer not to take drugs or feel that conventional medicine has failed them. They will often be given more time by a therapist than by a GP, and there is undoubtedly an element of taking responsibility when a diet, rather than a drug, is prescribed. A visit may be prompted purely by a desire to boost health and energy.

Whatever the reason, the rise in nutritional therapy is undeniable. The Society for the Promotion of Nutritional Therapy, which was set up only five years ago, boasts 2,000 members, of whom 700 are accredited practitioners. Many are doctors, nurses and clinical nutritionists.

The society's work received a boost recently when a government study showed that the vitamin and mineral supplements so favoured by nutritional therapists were safe. "We get 2,000 inquiries a year," says Linda Lazarides, SPNT's director. "It is certainly becoming better known because people are seeking more natural ways of looking after themselves."

ANJANA AHUJA



Mary Killen finally found the secret of eating well while watching the scales

PRODUCT RECALL

Frozen ASDA Vegetable Lasagne - 400g

A very small number of frozen ASDA Vegetable Lasagnes may wrongly contain a vegetable bake, of which one of the ingredients is cashew nuts.

Whilst the vegetable bake is wholesome and safe to eat, customers, particularly those allergic to nuts, should return the product to their nearest ASDA store for a full refund.

The affected frozen lasagne has a best before date of **November 1997**. The reference code **ERK 63161** is printed on top of the box in the bottom right hand corner.

All other frozen lasagnes stocked by ASDA are unaffected by this announcement.

ASDA

مركز الأصل



Radiant with health at 54, Gudrun Jonsson says: "People are waking up to the importance of preventing illness through adapting their lifestyle and diet."

'I lost weight and cleared my mind'

AFTER being hideously bulky for about two years, despite consuming roughly a third of the calories as my pencil-thin friends, I finally found the secret of eating as much as them while still losing weight. I was 34, delighted that I wrote a article explaining how I did it in the August 1993 issue of *Harpers & Queen*.

A nutritionist, reflexologist and biopathologist named Gudrun Jonsson had told me that my bulkiness and almost non-existent bowel movements had nothing to do with allergies; I was simply "sensitive" to certain foodstuffs, such as dairy products. It was not my fault that I had blown up like a balloon.

Following her instructions, yet still eating more than I had for years, I lost 23lb in four months.

The article seemed to strike a chord, perhaps because it was then almost unheard of to blame a "syndrome" rather than personal inadequacy for one's defects. Gudrun was so besieged by people wanting consultations that her answering machine soon announced, in slightly perturbed tones, that there were no more appointments for at least six months.

She told me I had a "toxic gut" which was fermenting. "And when you put in dairy products, you make more fermentation," she said. Wheat and yeast also contributed to fermentation and I was told to avoid them, too.

I hardly ever went to the loo, so everything I ate was neither being used as energy, nor being expelled as waste, but trapped in a seething pit of fermentation.

How had I created this "toxic gut"? Gudrun explained that stress is a contributory factor. It results in food being serially gobbled in a panicky way because of tension, then not properly processed as the digestive juices have not been triggered by correct chewing.

Antibiotics can strip the natural flora of the gut and once the blockage has begun, ill-vised food combinations aggravate the problem. Hay dieters will know that protein and starch should be eaten separately, otherwise the digestive juices needed to break them down — one acid and one alkali — are triggered at the same time and neutralise each other.

Fruit, eaten with other food, causes similar problems. Too much fibre-free food means that the waste is not expelled properly. All these factors, particularly the latter, lead to toxic gut and, consequently, low energy levels, said Gudrun. I was to avoid wheat, yeast, dairy

products, tomatoes, orange juice, coffee, sugar and chocolate. Gudrun was one of the first people in this country to identify oranges, milk and chocolate as "enemies of the system".

Some people may have scoffed at the idea. In 1993, but a study soon to be published in the *Journal of Nutritional Medicine* reveals that persistent crime offenders frequently cannot tolerate certain foods and are allergic to others. "Bananas and oranges have been singled out as mood-altering — along with other everyday foods such as milk, potatoes and apricots. Even chocolate is guilty of triggering aggressive, unpredictable behaviour in some people according to the research," it was reported last month.

Gudrun prescribed some homeopathic mixtures "to wake up the system

'Oranges, milk and chocolate are considered to be enemies of the digestive system and are best avoided'

before eating, to make you sleep well so as to help the recovery process, and to reintroduce bacterial flora to the gut".

I also consumed five cups of hot water with lemon and ginger. In no time my bowel movements were regular and my mind was less foggy.

MY HUSBAND, who is a very good cook and who generally prepares our food, paid no attention when I first began to follow this "latest neurotic diet", as he called it. A man who, depending on what he has been eating, swings between looking like Robert Redford or Timothy Spall — was going through a Timothy Spall stage in those days.

At first he was annoyed when I wouldn't join him in shepherd's pie or chicken curry, but when he saw that the weight was dropping off even though I was still eating reasonable amounts of food, he became interested. A typical day's intake for me would include oat bran

porridge for breakfast, flavoured with maple syrup, five wheat, yeast- and sugar-free oatcakes mid-morning, baked potato, olive oil and salad for lunch, and hot vegetable stock at intervals until the evening. Then three glasses of wine (although Gudrun advised two) and stir-fry vegetables with chicken or lamb with swede or celeriac (neither of which counts as starch) for supper.

My husband, an asthmatic who also suffered from indigestion, soon joined me on the diet. He lost two stones in two months and did not need his Ventolin inhaler again.

WHEN I first went to Gudrun I had also been trying to have a second baby, with no success. Gudrun felt that "nothing will stick there while you have this toxic gut" but she said that in a few months "we can get you pregnant".

Four months after that first meeting I was indeed expecting a baby. And I had dropped from 11st 9lb to 10st. I followed Gudrun's diet throughout the pregnancy and was 11st 7lb just before having the baby in January 1994. I was 10st 7lb after the birth. I should have been able to complete the trajectory which had been interrupted and continue downwards until I was about 8st 10lb — the ideal weight for someone who is 5ft 4in.

I stick to Gudrun's eating instructions as often as I can. I buy Russian rye bread, available from Waitrose. I eat starch and protein separately. I avoid tomatoes, oranges and sugar. But when you have a two-year-old who drinks a lot of hot milk and you are constantly tasting it, plus making wheat and yeast snacks for her and her nine-year-old sister and absent-mindedly licking your fingers...

More to the point, when you are constantly on tour as I am — my husband is a landscape painter and we travel a lot, staying with different people and eating their undesirable mixtures such as fish pie which contains wheat, yeast, dairy products and an unsuitable food combination of starch and protein, then it is difficult.

But three years on from a diet, it is not bad to be still 1st 6lb lighter than you were before, given that so many dieters balloon back to their original size. I remind myself that I am not nearly as hideous as I was, and the awful listless fog which once clouded my brain has gone — hopefully for ever.

MARY KILLEN

RECIPES FOR DRINKS THAT HELP TO CLEANSE THE BODY

THERE is no definitive method for detoxifying the body: each person reacts differently. Sudden detoxification can lead to severe headaches, skin irritations and bad breath. For this reason Gudrun is reluctant to prescribe a specific exclusion diet, though she is happy to recommend some cleansing drinks to help to detoxify the system.

- 1) Mix one whole lemon in a blender with olive oil and water to create a system-cleansing drink.
- 2) Simmer olive leaves in water for about 12 hours, drain liquid and drink in the morning to cleanse the liver.
- 3) Warm water with lemon and ginger.
- 4) Cider vinegar, mixed with warm water.



Oranges: "Enemies of the system"



Lemons: for cleansing the body

GLOSSARY

GREEN ENERGY: The energy received from algae.

UDO'S DIGESTIVE ENZYME: Contains all the enzymes required to break down and metabolise fat, carbohydrate, soluble fibre, starch, milk and sugar.

UDO'S OIL: A blend of natural oils rich in lecithin, which provides the building materials for healthy cell membranes.

UDO'S MISSING LINK: A nutrient-rich, high-fibre product to improve nutrition.

CAL-46: Soluble form of calcium and magnesium.

L-GLUTAMINE: An amino acid and the primary fuel of the digestive lining and the immune system.

OXYFLEX: A mineral food supplement which boosts the metabolism and immune system.

Gut reaction that can lead you to better health

IN THE study of Gudrun Jonsson's flat in west London is a machine. It is a machine that sits on a table next to a large, battered black chair, like the one used in *Mastermind*. The biotron is small and unremarkable and you scarcely notice it as you enter Ms Jonsson's study, but it is indispensable to her work as a biopath.

"Sit down, take off your socks and hold this," she says, handing you a metal rod that stretches on a long lead from the biotron. She then presses a pencil-shaped stylus, also attached to the machine, against numerous acupuncture points on your hands and feet.

"I am measuring the electrical charges coming from your body to test your energy levels," she says. "This offers a guide to which organs are active and which inactive and to the origins of any problems you have. We need to establish the extent of the toxicity of your gut. But if your digestive system is perfect, your health is normally perfect, too."

Toxic guts, fermentation, biotrons — the world of alternative medicine generates an exotic and arcane vocabulary. But Ms Jonsson is no crank. Her inclusive approach to weight problems and stress-induced illness — combining homeopathy, nutritional advice and reflexology — has had remarkable results. Her patients include actors, artists, media tycoons, newspaper editors and numerous royals.

Although often described as "the Duchess of York's food guru", she bristles when asked about the duchess. She denounces Madame Vasso, the disgraced faith healer from Greece who published her taped telephone conversations with the duchess in a book, *The Duchess of York: Uncensored*.

"I never discuss my clients. I think what Madame Vasso did was an ultimate betrayal of the trust that her client had put in her."

Gudrun Jonsson is a tall, striking Swede. At 54, she wears no make-up and has a flawless complexion. Her blonde hair is thick and healthy. But she did not always look so radiant. Twenty years ago, she says, she was "badly overweight, chronically constipated and had bad skin". Her hair was also falling out. "I remember combing my hair and whole chunks coming out in my hands."

She feels her deteriorating health was a symptom, not only of a disordered life but of decades of bad eating. Born in Sweden in 1943, the daughter of a farmer, she grew up in Ortrask, a remote village in the far north. The spectacular but severe landscape of her childhood — with its long, dark winters and thick mists — contributed to her poor diet.

"We were a typical northern European family. We never had many vegetables. I continued to eat badly when I moved to England. I would never have taken charge of my body if I hadn't started

losing my hair. After that, I started studying diet, eating better and generally looking after myself."

The loss of her hair coincided with a difficult phase in her life. Before moving to London in 1971, she worked as a primary school teacher in Stockholm. She originally came to London to join her boyfriend, but that relationship ended only three weeks after her arrival.

Her pride stopped her returning immediately to Sweden. So began her restless years, working in restaurants and hotels, as a chaffeur and a travel agent, and as head of a company manufacturing jeans in Manchester. She also had a brief, unsuccessful marriage.

"I don't regret anything about those years," she says. "My husband was a nice man but I was his third wife and he is now on his fifth. As for all the jobs, well, I like to think that without those experiences I would not have been able to understand people's problems."

Biopathy was founded by Kurt Nickson, a Danish author and therapist, who took many of his ideas from existing therapies in Germany. Ms Jonsson was intrigued by the therapy after reading about it in a book she received for Christmas. She saved some money to pay for her training in Denmark.

"I WAS attracted to biopathy because it aims to activate the self-healing forces within each individual through the combined use of natural treatments and remedies," she says. "People are waking up to the importance of preventing illness through adapting their lifestyle and diet. Reducing your stress level is a good example of a simple precaution people can take."

Ms Jonsson is a person who makes you feel good. She laughs continually: her conversation is engaging.

Looking back over her early years in London, Gudrun has few regrets. Though she spends most nights in the week alone, she never feels lonely. Her weekends are shared with friends in the country, where she swims and relaxes. She says: "If you work closely with people all day, you need time alone to recover your sense of perspective. I think it would take a special man to put up with my daily routine."

And what a routine. On waking she has a cup of warm water with added lemon and ginger, followed by a cold bath and some stretching exercises. The morning and afternoon are spent with patients, but the evening is hers in which to read, relax and meditate. The day ends with another bath — a warm one this time, laced with homeopathic potions.

For more information write to Gudrun Jonsson, Flat 2, 73 Holland Road, London W14 8HL. Please enclose an A4 stamped addressed envelope.

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... and Giles Whittell on a food fad that is taking America by storm

ZONI

"SEXY, SWEATY, sculpted," promise the big red words outside Todd Trump's body-sculpting gym in Hollywood, California.

It would be helpful if somebody added: "... and obsessed with a modish nutritional fad called 'zoning'."

Todd Trump's is one of dozens of shrines to the perfect body that litter the world's capital of narcissism. In Hollywood's gyms you are measured by your waistline and your muscle definition, which is why it is strange to find so

Health-obsessed Americans are turning to a new guru who says not all fat is bad

many regulars gushing about a new diet with twice the fat and a little more than half the carbohydrate, intake recommended by the US Surgeon General.

Madonna, Steven Seagal, Oliver Stone and even the Clinton's are all said to be ardent converts to zoning, and miraculously lighter for it. They eat avocados but not carrots, and cheese without

the macaroni, and almost certainly could not tell you why.

Their guru is Dr Barry Sears, a former researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology whose book *Enter The Zone* has been in *The New York Times* best-seller list since its publication in summer 1995.

At the heart of his holy disputed thesis is the notion

that dietary fat is not the main cause of excess body fat: carbohydrates are. Specifically, mountains of bread and pasta obediently swallowed by millions of Americans on low-fat, high-carb diets, and converted to fat by their bodies for want of anything else to do with it.

"You fatten cattle by feeding them lots of low-fat grain," writes Mr Sears. "How do you

fatten humans? Same way: you feed them lots and lots of low-fat grain." And after a decade of emphasis by public health officials on the supposed merits of "high-density" carbohydrates, obesity in America is up by 22 per cent.

Sears believes that food is not just petrol for the human machine. It also controls our hormone levels — or, more often, throws them out of balance.

The solution is apparently to eat always "in the Zone". Certain "good" carbohydrates, fats and proteins, the theory goes, when ingested in the right proportions, can boost production of human growth hormone and moderate that of insulin, which Sears says is the main culprit in triggering the creation of body fat.

This book claims that "Zone-favourable" eating can help protect you against heart disease, cancer and AIDS; can stretch your life-span towards the maximum of 115 years; can enhance something called "emotional performance"; and can put you permanently into the zone that word again of euphoria-heightened physical achievement hitherto known only to athletes at their peak.

Such claims are misleading, say mainstream nutritionists. Based on theories, not lab tests, Sears's work "looks scientific but wouldn't pass muster within the discipline of clinical nutrition," says Wayne Callaway, who has helped to draw up dietary guidelines for the US government.

In particular, experts have attacked Sears's ideas on a food-hormone link. "No diet is going to control hormones the way he claims," says Ellen Coleman, a writer on nutrition. "He's creating false hope for people trying to lose weight."

Maybe, but he seems to have worked wonders with athletes. In the build-up to the 1992 Olympics, he was invited to work with Stanford University's swimming team. He put them in the Zone and they won eight Olympic gold medals

TOMORROW DAY TWO: THE DISCOVERY DIET GUIDE



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● **BODY SHAPE.** The diet that changed my life by Royal Ballet Principal Deborah Bull



In trim: one portion of a "turbocharged" vegetable could provide the same nutrients as five "normal" fruit and vegetables

Super-greens, super health

IF EATING greens is good for you, what about super-greens? At the laboratories of the Institute of Food Research (IFR) in Norwich, scientists are breeding better broccoli, enriched in the chemicals responsible for its health benefits.

If and when these turbocharged vegetables hit the market, it should be possible to meet the dietary requirement of five portions of fruit and vegetables each day by eating only one or two. Reinforced by goodies, these vegetables should protect us from cancer and heart disease without the struggle of stuffing down greens morning, noon and night.

Down in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, Nigel Gifford is taking a different tack. His company, Herbalforce Natural Products, is selling a food supplement called Revital consisting of the same kinds of chemicals, formulated in a capsule. He expects them to earn a place in the kitchen cabinet alongside vitamins and fish oil capsules.

The key to both these developments are phytochemicals — natural constituents of plants that are neither protein, fibre nor vitamin, but which research has shown human cells to need for health. Dr John Wilkinson, of Middlesex University, says that 40,000 such chemicals are known, but that we are only beginning to understand how they function.

If you believe the phytochemical enthusiasts, these substances can cure all human ills from AIDS to hot flashes. Plants have, of course, provided the basis for many powerful drugs — about a quarter of the drugs on the market have botanical origins — and the pharmaceuti-

cal companies continue the search, but Dr Wilkinson believes that the future emphasis on phytochemicals will be different. He says that it may be impossible to isolate a particular chemical and sell it as a drug, because what matters is the synergistic effects of a whole orchestra of phytochemicals.

If so, phytochemicals will occupy a middle ground between drugs and foods: they will be nutrients, foods or food supplements that confer health benefits. Proving those benefits to the satisfaction of scientists may be difficult, however.

At the Norwich laboratories of the IFR, Dr Ian Johnson, of IFR, has shown that broccoli sprouts, which Dr Johnson calls "microgreens", are responsible for the characteristic sprouty smell, is the active ingredient, and it works by persuading the precancerous cells to commit suicide. So powerful is the effect, Dr Johnson told *New Scientist*, that he believes even an occasional meal containing sprouts could destroy these cells in the colon.

THE RANGE of plant chemicals with identifiable effects is enormous. The cruciferous vegetables — broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, kale and kohlrabi — contain isothiocyanates and indoles, both of which have anti-cancer properties. The research at the IFR, says Dr Gary Williamson, involves breeding broccoli with higher levels of the isothiocyanate called sul-

phoraphane. "The levels are low in commercial broccoli," he says. "Brussels sprouts have more of this chemical but they are not as popular."

He hopes to begin taste-testing the newly bred broccoli in the summer. The taste will be crucial, because if the extra levels of sulphoraphane have made the broccoli unpalatable, nobody is likely to want it however much good it does them.

The wide range of phytochemicals, combined with uncertainty about how they achieve their effects, is likely to leave consumers bewildered. It is not clear, for example, whether individual phytochemicals are effective on their own or whether they work only in concert with other phytochemicals. Dr Wilkinson points to the attempts to prove the effects of beta-carotene, a vitamin precursor found in carrots and green vegetables, as an example of how the reductionist approach may fail. Taken in the form of tablets, beta-carotene has failed in two trials to produce the health benefits so confidently predicted.

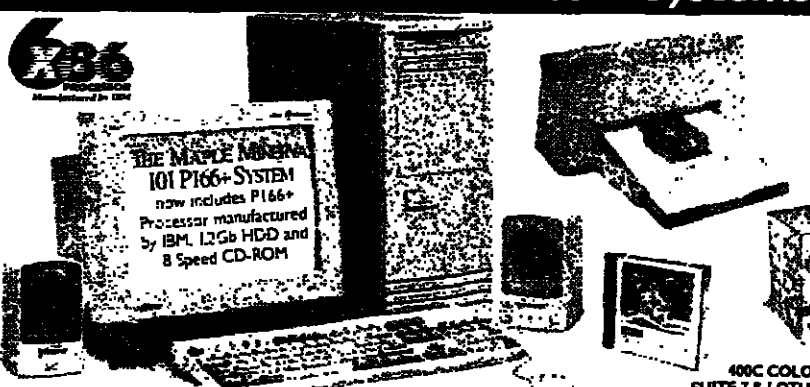
This means that phytochemicals may never aspire to the same standard of proof as drugs, which are rigorously tested in double-blind trials. Dr Wilkinson is unworried by this. "I'm a scientist, but I'm an open-minded scientist," he says. "I don't see the double-blind trial as the be-all and end-all."

With a health service increasingly looking towards evidence-based medicine, however, it is possible that phytochemicals will find it difficult to get established.

NIGEL HAWKES

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Giles Whittell on Nasa's plans to send astronauts to Mars and Nigel Hawkes on dangers to interplanetary voyagers

Mars landing: the painting *Descent into the Chasm* portrays how the fall of the expedition to the Ganges Chasma floor is slowed by the spacecraft's main parachutes

Next stop, the Red Planet

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Not yet. But sooner than you might think. As a new wave of unmanned American probes heads for Mars, and an ill-starred Russian one sits at the bottom of the Pacific, Nasa's chief, Daniel Goldin, has said he has no fixed plans yet for sending people after them. But this does not mean no such plans exist. They do, and they are extraordinarily detailed.

Since claiming to have found traces of Martian life in an asteroid, Nasa has made available an engrossing 33-page booklet, *Human Mars Exploration*, that makes getting there sound safer than choosing a nanny. There are only two problems, according to Donna Shirley, of the space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. "It's a three-year round trip, no matter how you slice it," she says. And it's expensive.

When President Bush declared that America should aim to put people on

Mars by the year 2019, Nasa said it would cost a staggering \$400 billion (£266 billion). President Clinton has so far stopped short of repeating the challenge, since such sums were not to be talked of in an election year. His tacit message to scientists has been: come up with something cheaper.

They have. In the name of value-for-money, Nasa has all but abandoned the notion of a "plant-the-flag" trip designed simply to get to Mars and back as fast as possible. The latest plan, honed for public consumption by David Weaver and Michael Duke, of Houston's Johnson Space Centre, puts astronauts on the Red Planet for a daunting 30-month stint of roving, mining and refuelling, with plenty of time to hunt for Martian life-forms.

The plan is based around one cost-cutting idea: make most of the fuel for the return journey on Mars. Scientists agree that the principle of using liquid hydrogen brought from Earth to extract methane and liquid oxygen from carbon dioxide in Mars's atmosphere is simple enough. Based on the so-called Sabatier process, it follows straightforward chemical equations and would have water as its only by-product.

The mission would unfold as follows: blasting off on top of a conventional Delta rocket in September 2007, the astronauts' empty

return module would head for Mars and park in orbit above the distant planet one year and 450 million miles later. (As the Apollo programme proved, a single burn of a booster is enough to keep a capsule coasting along almost indefinitely at seven to eight miles a second. In this case "nuclear thermal" engines would be used to escape Earth's orbit, then jettisoned on a course that would not encounter Earth or Mars for at least 10 million years — or so we are assured.)

Closely following the outbound return module in the autumn of 2007 would be two more unmanned cargo vehicles, both designed to slow down in Mars's orbit and release landing craft into Ganges Chasma, a deep canyon near the planet's equator. Once there, one cargo pod would deploy a nuclear-powered chemical plant to spend the next two years creating the 30 cubic metres of rocket fuel necessary to return a crew to Mars's orbit. The other, a "surface habitat/laboratory", would sit and wait for human beings.

In late 2009, three more payloads head for Mars. The first two are identical to the first 2007 launches, providing back-up in the event of mishaps and extra resources for future missions. The last contains six astronauts, cooped up for six months

in a two-storey cylinder not much bigger than a removal van.

In an exquisite understatement the Weaver/Duke plan admits that "in the transits to Mars, the chief problems will be concerned with maintaining interpersonal relationships needed for crew productivity... Mental health as well as physical health will be crucial."

Nobody knows for certain how to stop astronauts going stir-crazy on their way to Mars. They may have to rely on CD-Roms and Sony Walkmans. Sanity permitting, they will skid into an elliptical Martian orbit in mid-2010, using the planet's outer atmosphere as an "aerobrake". Parachutes and retro-rockets lower them gently into Ganges Chasma next to the habitat put there two years earlier. Joined by an airlock, these two pods form the crew's base for the next 500 days — roughly a Martian year.

What happens next depends on what our emissaries find, but Nasa's graphics department makes it look like a space-suited Outward Bound adventure. Long-range rovers let the crew stray up to 500km from base in their hunt for useful resources and signs of life beneath the planet's frigid crust. They could even abscond down the east face of Olympus Mons, a volcano the size of Arizona thought to contain answers to some of the mysteries of Martian geology.

In October, 2011, they head for home. Leaving behind an intact base, a tiny rocket-powered ascent vehicle docks with the larger return module which by this time has been in orbit round Mars for nearly four years. Six months later the astronauts re-enter Earth's atmosphere much as their lunar predecessors did, and just too late to wish their replacement crew a pleasant trip.

If enough work were farmed out to private contractors, putting a base on Mars along these lines could cost a mere £18 billion, according to Robert Zubrin, author of the recently published *The Case for Mars*. Perhaps most remarkably, the technology for the entire scheme already exists. As Donna Shirley says, there is no elusive "unobtainium".

To keep his scientists' feet on the ground, Daniel Goldin has posted on Nasa's Internet Website some stern prerequisites for a manned Mars mission, including completion of the international space station and the little matter of a global economic upswing. But there is no doubting where the next Neil Armstrong's foot will land. Nasa's "core mission", Congress stated as recently as 1993, "is, and depends upon, the extension of human presence beyond Planet Earth". No one ever gave Columbus such encouragement.

The hazards of travel from Earth to Mars

The first astronauts to visit Mars will face dangers that Nasa has yet to take fully into account, according to an expert group from the US National Research Council.

The long journey will expose them to high radiation doses from cosmic rays, which could cause cancer, cataracts, sterility and brain damage, the council says in its report.

Unless efforts to assess the dangers of exposure to cosmic rays are stepped up, it will be at least 20 years before adequate data is available.

The result will be that Nasa will have to err on the side of caution, surrounding the Martian mission with large amounts of material

to absorb the radiation, most likely lithium hydride. That could add as much as \$30 billion to the cost of the mission, the NRC report, commissioned by Nasa, concludes.

Such extra costs could easily torpedo the entire mission, according to Dr Richard

Sellow, associate director for life sciences at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, who chaired the NRC committee which prepared the report. "When I first saw those figures I was horrified," he told *New Scientist*.

Cosmic radiation has always been recognised as a hazard of space travel, but previous missions have been too short for it to have had significant effects. A manned probe to Mars would take several years, so the risks have to be taken seriously. They may turn out to be exaggerated, the NRC panel says, but until the research is done no one knows.

Robert Zubrin, an enthusiast for Mars exploration, estimates that cosmic-ray doses for the Mars round-trip would be of the order of 50 rem. This is many times higher than that permitted for radiation workers, never mind ordinary members of the public, but Dr Zubrin argues that it is a

small fraction of the total risk of space travel. For example, he says, a transatlantic airline pilot could expect over a 25-year career to be exposed to about half the dose experienced by an astronaut on a two-and-a-half year mission to Mars.

Nasa is doing research on the subject, but too slowly, the NRC report says. To gather the data involves using a particle accelerator to expose animals to the same kind of high-energy particles that the astronauts will experience in space.

The panel suggests that animals will have to be exposed to the particles for about 3,000 hours, simulating

over a relatively short period the intensity of bombardment the astronauts can expect.

At present, Nasa uses particle accelerators for only 100 or so hours a year, not enough to gather the information, the panel says. It suggests that the agency should consider building its own accelerator, at a cost of about £15 million, and spend a few tens of millions more doing the experiments. This is far less than the cost of shielding a Mars mission against a worst-case scenario, Dr Sellow says. "Obviously, it would be cheaper to do the experiments."

However, the "experiments are done, several questions need to be answered, the NRC says, including assessing the risks of cancer, genetic damage and damage to the central nervous system, and whether and how the design of the craft and its shielding can reduce these risks.

Dr Frank Sulzman, acting deputy director of Nasa's life sciences division, says that tight budgets may make it difficult to find the money for the cosmic-ray safety experiments. "Doing more in one area probably means doing less in another," he says.

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□ Chemical oddball □ Webs of steel □ Blocking Alzheimer's

A CURIOUS compound that shrinks rather than expanding when it is heated is causing a stir in America. Dental companies are putting the bite on it as the ideal material for everlasting fillings, while the electronics industry wants to use it for circuit boards, and astronomers see it as a perfect material for telescope mirrors.

Zirconium tungstate is a chemical oddball. While virtually every other material known expands when it is heated, it does exactly the opposite. Over a very large temperature range, from near absolute zero to 777°C, it goes on shrinking the hotter it becomes. While other materials, including water, may do this over small temperature ranges, zirconium tungstate is unique in doing it over such a wide range.

This strange behaviour was discovered last year by a team at Oregon State University in Corvallis led by Professor Arthur Sleight and Thomas Vogt at

Shrinking in the heat



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York State. The properties of the material are further explored in a paper in the current issue of *Science*.

Materials expand and contract when heated for a simple reason. The hotter they are, the more their molecules vibrate, and the greater the space they need to do it in. Zirconium tungstate is different. It consists of atoms of zirconium and tungsten linked through ox-

ygen atoms. As it is heated, these links tend to bend, like an arm bending at the elbow. The result is to bring the zirconium and tungsten atoms closer together, causing the material to shrink.

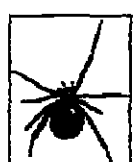
The latest paper reports what happens to zirconium tungstate under high pressure. The team found that its crystal structure tends to collapse, and the material loses much of its negative thermal expansion. But it

quickly recovers it when heated, suggesting that it might be used in a composite to serve as some kind of shock absorber. "A material with this type of behaviour might be able to absorb an explosive force and somewhat regain its shape," Professor Sleight says.

There are plenty of other potential applications. One is in dental fillings, which tend to fall out as they become loosened by the cycle of heating and cooling from hot and cold foods. A new composite containing zirconium tungstate, which is non-toxic and could probably be made in tooth-like colours, might provide a perfect match with the expansion of natural teeth.

Another application might be as a circuit board whose changes on heating matched the electronic circuits attached to the board, or as the material for scientific instruments such as telescope mirrors, which lose their perfect shape when their temperature changes.

Black widow's silky strength



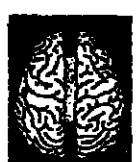
THE silk that is spun by the black widow spider is as strong as Kevlar, the synthetic fibre used in the manufacture of bulletproof vests, an American scientist has discovered. That makes it several times stronger than the silk spun by other spiders, according to Dr Anne Moore of Scripps College in Claremont, California.

For some years scientists

have studied the draglines of common spiders, arguing that the lines from which the creatures suspend themselves are likely to be the strongest they make. Dr Moore, by contrast, has studied the silk used by the black widow to construct its web.

She discovered that there are two distinct types of silk: one can stretch by 25 per cent before breaking, while the other is even stronger, but less elastic. Now Dr Moore plans to study silk from other parts of the web and identify the chemical ingredients that provide it with its remarkable properties.

Moss enzyme stops dementia



A MOSS long used in Chinese medicine blocks a brain enzyme by fitting precisely into a cleft in the enzyme, scientists at the Weizmann Institute in Israel have discovered. The finding could lead to better treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

Huperzia serrata is the moss, used as a source of Huperzine A, a substance which binds to the enzyme

acetylcholinesterase. In the January issue of *Nature Structural Biology*, the Weizmann team reports the three-dimensional structure of the complex, showing that the natural substance fits precisely into the place in the enzyme where it is most likely to block its action.

The symptoms of Alzheimer's are caused by deficiencies in acetylcholine, which might be corrected by inhibiting the enzyme that breaks it down. Several drugs designed to do this are on trial, but Huperzine A does it so precisely that it might prove potent in low doses, thus causing relatively few side-effects.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Two new London shows provide the opportunity to assess the latest paintings by Germany's Anselm Kiefer

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



RECITALS

Anthony Payne is the featured composer in the Park Lane Group's Young Artists Series on the South Bank

CONCERTS: All week
REVIEWS: From tomorrow



THEATRE

Hollywood meets rural Ireland in Martin McDonagh's new play at the National, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



CONCERT

Italian conductor Antonio Pappano makes his concert debut with the LSO conducting Tchaikovsky's Fifth

CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

The best essay I have ever read is *My First Acquaintance with Poets* by Hazlitt. I thought so at 16. I have thought so periodically ever since — most recently last Boxing Day. Bacon may be a ground-breaker and the more perfect, Orwell, the latest great British essayist on whom we can have a proper purchase, is the more pertinent. But William Hazlitt tops them all for passion, power and recklessness.

In this essay alone he tells the story of several key encounters in his life — principally his first meetings with the poets Coleridge and Wordsworth. He describes with devoted clarity a father, a dissenting minister, marooned in the country, entombed in the study of *The Commentaries* — huge folios, not easily got through, one of which would outlast a winter; he brings to life the conversation of Coleridge, our most philosophical poet; he leads us into a foreign society of week-long walks by young new male friends with talk as the stimulus; he argues his

corner on metaphysics; tells us how from "a deep sleep" he came to an ability to articulate "my admiration to others in motley imagery and quaint allusion"; delivers a fusillade of said allusions (which intoxicated me as an adolescent and stuffed my style till it burst like an overdone sausage); reveals both the depths of a young failure — "I was at that time dumb, inarticulate, helpless, like a worm by the wayside, crushed, bleeding, lifeless" — and the great awakening by the poet: "the light of his genius shone into my soul like the sun's rays glittering in the puddles of the road". He twists and turns from ecstasy to utter bleakness of autobiography, and the whole essay flows together in a cataract of clear speaking prose.

He is wrong, too, now and then, which is always comforting in a hero. He describes the face of

Coleridge in detail and ends with the words "but his nose, the rudder of the face, the index of the will, was small, feeble, nothing — like what he has done". This was to underestimate Coleridge's extant poetry and, more pardonably, to ignore the riches which would later be discovered among what seemed a waste of talent but was a prodigality so vast that it blinded the age it addressed.

Hazlitt for me was like Coleridge for Hazlitt. And the exhilaration he expresses for the gratitude he gives to Coleridge I have for years given to Hazlitt.

In one particular instance I made an attempt to repay the debt. Having read his essays on juggling as well as Pousin, on boxing as well as Shakespeare, I thought I knew a wasted man who did not cut his subject out of a false sense of intellectual dignity. Twenty



years on from the first reading of Hazlitt I came across *Liber Amoris*. This was a fictional account of a frenzy of love experienced by a middle-aged Hazlitt when he became obsessed by a

young serving girl. A frenzy which led him to divorce, to alienate his son, to distress his friends and delight his enemies. "I am in some sense proud that I can feel this dreadful passion," he wrote. "It makes me a kind of peer in the kingdom of love." The girl would not have him and at the time a friend declared that he was "substantially insane". Even this he turned into writing. "The passions intercept and warp the natural progress of life," he wrote. "They paralyse all that is not devoted to their tyranny and caprice."

I was shocked to read this, about a writer I thought I knew so well. I wrote a novel, *A Time To Dance*, taking the central notion from *Liber Amoris* paying, as I hoped, a tribute to Hazlitt by introducing a lecture about him inside the book. After finishing my novel I realised that far from being an exception in

Hazlitt's life and work, *Liber Amoris* was the key to it.

There are fine essays today and undoubtedly some will survive. There are still rapturous encounters between young disciples and masters, though it seems to me that it happens more often now in films and music than in literature. And there are still writers prepared to hurl their lives into the essay form often thought of as antique, but one which still rides high in the broadsheets and magazines.

None, though, I think, brings so much to bear with the welter of knowledge, the detailed enthusiasm and the exposure of a blighted desperate self as the dissenting minister's son who got up before daylight one bitterly cold January morning 199 years ago to walk the ten miles to Shrewsbury to hear a sermon.

UNDERSTANDABLE glee has been expressed across the country at the news that we are reading more. Moreover, there is the satisfying subtext that this is one in the eye for the philistine television and a biff in the solar plexus for the new monster face replacing it, the Internet.

The news is indeed welcome but is it so very surprising? We have known for ages that television, if anything, encourages book-buying in this country. We know that many more people are in university education and therefore a larger proportion of the population will develop bookish appetites. Add to that early retirement and the first society in which unprecedented numbers are thinking about cultivating their leisure as variously as possible; and the ground is laid.

What kept people back from reading in the good old days was lack of education, lack of opportunity, and exhaustion. A good deal of that is gone. Books could be the 21st century's hot stock.

My first acquaintance with Hazlitt

CINEMA: Once again the British are tipped for top Oscar honours, led by Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies*. Matt Wolf on the contenders

Hollywood, here we come

The British presence in America's annual film honours is a reassuring fact, but even in comparison with recent years, Britain's cachet at the moment puts us a league apart. With Oscar nominations still five weeks away, home-grown talent looks set to feature in virtually every category when the prizes are handed out at the end of March.

Not for the first time, Britain is benefiting from a growing feeling that if you want quali-

ty, you've got to go British. Since too much native Hollywood talent is content to shoot itself in the foot (*Jack*, anyone?). How else to explain the critical and commercial failures in America of such anticipated films as *Surviving Picasso*, one of the few Merchant-Ivory projects unlikely to be feted come Oscar time; *That Thing You Do!*, the debut directing effort of two-time Oscar-winner Tom Hanks; and even *Barbra Streisand's The Mirror Has Two Faces*, which has done

decent, but hardly spectacular, business (it opens in Britain on Friday).

Instead, the trade papers are busy trumpeting such unfamiliar — at least in Hollywood — names as Mike Leigh for best director for *Secrets and Lies*, as well as the same film's Brenda Blethyn, and Emily Watson from *Breaking the Waves*, as best actress.

Could Leigh possibly step up to a podium occupied last year by Mel Gibson, the quintessential Hollywood player? Might Blethyn snare the nomination earmarked for perennial nominee Meryl Streep, who is under consideration this year for *Marvin's Room*, an art-house film co-starring Diane Keaton? Stranger things have happened. *Secrets and Lies* swept the prizes at the recent Los Angeles Film Critics Awards ceremony, and at a time when studio films are getting ever more bloated, an independently financed underdog may carry unusual clout.

Leigh isn't the only Hollywood anomaly finding favour across the Atlantic. Paul Scofield won an Oscar in 1966 for *A Man For All Seasons*, only to follow it up with such little-seen esoterica as *A Delicate Balance* and *1919*. In recent years, though, the 74-year-old actor has enjoyed a screen comeback with supporting performances in *Quiz Show* and now *The Crucible*, and Hollywood likes nothing better than an old-timer it can rediscover. (American veterans trading on the same phenomenon include Lauren Bacall and Debbie Reynolds.) Scofield's *Crucible* director, the British opera and theatre director Nicholas Hytner, has the full studio support of Twentieth Century Fox for what is only his second film, and both Hytner and the film's star, Daniel Day-Lewis, would be almost certain Oscar hopefuls if that film — like many others — had not been at least partly eclipsed by yet another year-end release packed with British talent. *The English Patient*.

With seven nominations, Anthony Minghella's adaptation of the Michael Ondaatje novel leads the field for the forthcoming Golden Globes, to be awarded in Los Angeles on January 19. And though Scott Hicks's Australian hit *Shine* is hot on its heels, *The English Patient* may be just the answer for an Academy electorate for whom *Breaking the Waves* and *Secrets and Lies* are too mar-



Could *Secrets and Lies*, which swept the prizes at the recent Los Angeles Film Critics Awards ceremony, win an Oscar for British director Mike Leigh?

ginal (and, in the case of Lars von Trier's film, too weird). In a stronger year, *The English Patient* would be a dark horse up against the Hollywood blockbuster of the moment. But at a *Gump*-less time, the combined glamour of Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas might well prevail, and Minghella's exotic locations won't hurt.

As for Kenneth Branagh's four-hour *Hamlet*, it is too early to predict the film's commercial fate, but if the Golden Globes are any indication, Branagh's acting-directing effort looks unlikely to repeat the Oscar success of Laurence Olivier's 1948 forebear: despite opening amid

much fanfare on Christmas Day, the Branagh *Hamlet* has been shortlisted for no awards to date.

In terms of competition, Branagh is the first to acknowledge what he is up against. *Secrets and Lies*, he told me in November, "is almost Greek in its impact. It appears to be a small film, but its impact is massive."

Referring to the end-of-year derby that finds selective Britons emerging from a pack of some 30 major films, Hytner says: "It's nuts. I never want to have a movie released at this time again." Although Hytner could be spending these weeks biting his nails by a pool in Los Angeles, he has instead re-

turned to the National Theatre for the first time since 1992 to direct Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, which opens tomorrow night.

"I have to say, one of the attractions of doing this play was that I knew I would be here when *The Crucible* opened," he says. "I wouldn't have to worry about grosses and critics and phone calls and all that. I know that if I were in LA, there would be nothing else to talk about."

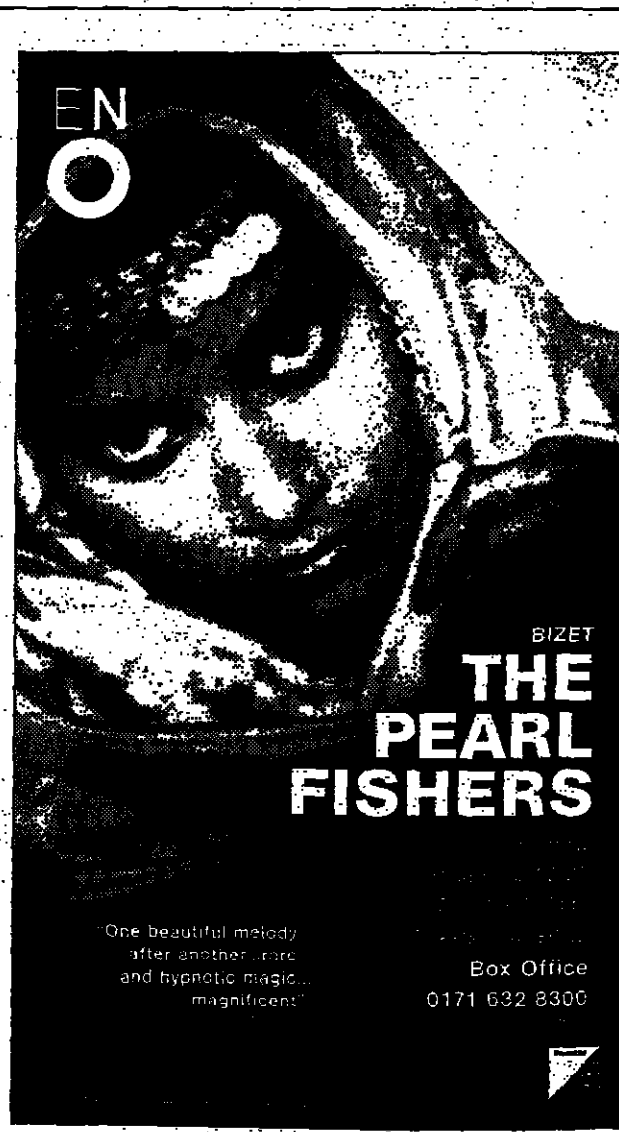
Minghella, in turn, speaks of "an expectation so high that it's not a good place to begin. The terrible thing is, I hope people aren't disappointed if *The English Patient* doesn't win 20 Academy Awards. So many films now open at the end of the year, you just want yours to have a chance."

Regardless of what prizes these films ultimately do or don't win, none of their creators is likely to cross the Atlantic for good. Despite having a home in Greenwich Village in Manhattan, Hytner is retaining his north London base — "I can't wait to work here again, and I'm always going to do theatre here" — and Minghella's Hampstead house is not far away.

Perhaps the last word on Hollywood should go to an ever-feisty Mike Leigh. "If you're asking, would I really work for a Hollywood studio, or would I rather stick needles in my eyeballs, I would say pass me the needles."



Oscar contender *The Crucible*, directed by Nicholas Hytner



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& continuing
Light Shining in Buckinghamshire
by Caryl Churchill
Preview Thurs 11 Jan at 7.30pm
Press Night Fri 10 Jan at 7.30pm, Sat
11 Jan at 2.30pm & 7.30pm
& continuing

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But there are several performances to enjoy. Melanie Wall discloses a strong soprano as Donna Anna and attacks the difficult role fearlessly, a little too fearlessly at times. Andrew Dale Forbes's excellent Catalogue Aria, crisply communicative, sets the tone for strongly defined singing from his Leporello. Juliet Schlemann's bright Zerlina is a pleasure to hear, and Jeannette Walnwright's slightly too placid Elvira is reliable. There is firm, charming singing from Nicholas Geddes as Masetto and the Commendatore, and an adequate Ottavio in Stephen Crook. All move well in Claire Young's simple, all-black set: Giles Block's production is, if nothing else, fluent.

The orchestral playing supplies special, unexpected pleasure. Richard Balcombe's reduction of the score, one player to a part, brings a chamber-like quality to the music with only the big dramatic contrasts lacking. The band, all equals here, give a crisp and stylish performance under the light baton of David Gibson, whose considerate support of the singers ensures easy-flowing ensembles throughout.

JOHN ALLISON

[illegible]

Matthew Parris



■ I've made my new year's resolution: I'm going to start planning for isthmus day

My map of Kerguelen has arrived, and I am more delighted than I can say. Measuring 6ft by 5ft and composed of three separate charts integrated into one, it has been assembled by my brother Roger. The charts, ordered from a geographical institute in Paris, took months to come. Roger has mounted them with care and precision on a wooden backing, faced with 60mm glass and framed in oak — so the thing weighs more than a man. On the wall of my flat in London the weight is taken by a horizontal baton screwed into the brick. This map, every detail, transfixes me. I go up close to study an isthmus, a marsh or a snowfield — then stand back and stare in blank wonder at the whole island. I am under its spell.

I always have been. Did you ever, as a child, pore over those great world atlases, in Mercator's projection, with Baffin Island very big and all the British bits in red? I spent a boyhood doing so. What fascinated me were places that looked remote.

Chief among these was an archipelago of islands which (my Britannica said) were the land most remote from any continent in the world. The archipelago lies in the south Indian Ocean, more than 2,000 miles east-south-east of the Cape of Good Hope, and even further west-south-west of Western Australia. More than 1,000 miles north of Antarctica, Kerguelen is more than 4,000 miles south of India. Situated at 49 deg South (England is about the same latitude in the north) the archipelago belongs to France. It is the main island that is called Kerguelen, or Desolation Island. What intrigued me as a child was how big Kerguelen is. Some 90 miles from tip to tip, a 2,800 square mile spidery triangle of fords and peninsulas. It seemed mysterious that a substantial island at an apparently temperate latitude was never mentioned in geography lessons. No teacher could tell me about it. Few even recognised the name. So the place took on a tremendous allure: a secret island that I could almost discover. At its other name, "Desolation", my eyes widened. The idea grew — fanciful of course — that someone was trying to hide the existence of this place. I felt drawn there.

Childish researches established that Kerguelen was first sighted in 1772 by Joseph de Kerguelen Tremarec, a Breton noble. Captain Cook visited in the *Challenger* four years later and explored. Later came sealing and whaling stations, now abandoned, along with ships' cats, which have reputedly gone feral and tip-toe through the snow, stalking birds. A group of French scientists apparently

inhabits the main settlement, Port au France. But I cannot establish that any human being has ever been born on Kerguelen. The climate is not, it turns out, temperate. The winters are bitter, the summers cool. The islands are the windiest place in the world. The gale almost never abates, buffeting Kerguelen in perpetual violent squalls. Of trees, only fossils remain; the native Kerguelen cabbage has been ravaged by rabbits (introduced); the islands are so windy that insects have lost their wings and plants have evolved to pollenate by wind.

Mountains rise to some 6,000 ft. And (speculates an encyclopaedia) there may be hot springs and volcanoes. The archipelago is cut by fantastic fjords. "The scenery is generally magnificent... glaciers descend east and west to the sea. The whole island abounds in freshwater lakes and pools. Hidden deep mudholes are common."

I doubt whether there is any way of reaching Kerguelen by air. It seems one or two ships anchor there, but never stay. So one might have to go for six months or more. I long to. But first I must find out more. Joseph Kerguelen himself described the island, and Captain Cook has an account, which I have yet to find. In his narrative of the *Challenger* voyage, another account was written in 1893. In French, and a friend in France has sent me a modern French journal which I am struggling to read. Somewhat introspective, with imaginative interludes much in the French manner, it nevertheless seems likely to provide useful information.

Everyone should make a new year's resolution. Mine is to start making serious plans to reach Kerguelen. One way would be to get together a properly funded expedition, which would have to be photographic. I cannot see anyone being so interested in printing or screening an account of the islands, however, as to stump up the money. An alternative would be to hang around in Mauritius for a year or so until someone else was setting sail there. Time-consuming. I am also worried about frostbite. Even in Derbyshire I suffer dreadfully from frozen fingers, feet and ears; what will it be like in a 200mph west wind? Such speculations fill my mind.

A letter last week on the page opposite was good enough to remind the Editor that columnists such as me pay for holidays by writing about them. Correspondent, I spit in your eye. Sneak. Modern-day Ferdinands and Isabellas, do get in touch. I await your call. Standing where I shall so often stand again this year, staring at my wonderful map of Kerguelen.

The Labour leader has been frank with his party, but is still evasive with the electorate

Blair is remarkable, but not invincible

Tony Blair will himself be one of the main issues of the general election, and rightly so. The Conservatives will be attacked for negative campaigning, and no doubt some of their criticisms will be personal and unfair. But the Blair issue is unavoidable. The election will decide whether "new Labour" is to be the next government of the country: new Labour is Tony Blair's creation. One can no more criticise new Labour without criticising Tony Blair than one can criticise Virgin Airways without criticising Richard Branson.

There have been eight Labour leaders since the war, all of whom served for a time as Leader of the Opposition. With the exception of Harold Wilson, their record in opposition was depressing. Wilson is the only Labour leader since 1950 to have won a general election. He won two elections as Leader of the Opposition, in 1964 and 1974. Yet he held the firm belief that the old Labour orthodoxies, however absurd, should be evaded rather than challenged. He left a Labour Party even more divided than he found it.

No Leader of the Opposition can be judged in history until he has fought an election, and Tony Blair has not yet won his. Nevertheless, he has done something that none of his seven predecessors achieved, and only Hugh Gaiskell even attempted. He has changed Labour from being a democratic socialist party to being a social democratic party. He has done that without splitting his party, though old Labour deeply resents the change, and he has established a personal control that none of his predecessors enjoyed. If he wins the election, even narrowly, that will confirm the judgment that Tony Blair is the strongest leader the Labour Party has had in opposition since the war.

The question in people's minds is

whether he would be anything like as good a Prime Minister as he has been a Leader of the Opposition. There is a worrying contrast between the dominance he has shown to his party and the deference he has shown to the electorate. All of his risks have been party risks; none of his risks have been electoral. He has not hesitated to tell his party unwelcome truths: he has not been equally frank with the voters. To his party he has spoken as a man who knows what is right and is determined to push it through; to the country he has spoken as a man who reads opinion polls.

This has sometimes been only too obvious. Michael Howard is a right-wing and populist Home Secretary, with too simple a view of the treatment of crime and punishment. He enjoys less professional confidence, either among lawyers or in the penal and probationary services, than any Home Secretary since the war. He does, as a politician, enjoy some public support, because he is seen as tough on crime. He may even sometimes be right.

A proper Opposition would scrutinise such a Home Secretary's measures very rigorously. The present Police Bill is in line with Michael Howard's headline policies; it includes giving legal rights to the police to invade and spy on the privacy of the home, on the mere say-so of a chief constable. Nothing could be more unwelcome from the point of

view of civil liberties, yet the Labour Party has accepted these illiberal proposals, presumably for fear of being outflanked by Mr Howard's toughness on crime.

The issues on which the election ought to be fought are the economy, particularly government expenditure and taxation, and Europe, particularly the single currency. The Labour Party policy is not clear on either; the Conservative Party is clearer on the economy, but is still ambiguous on Europe. When

panies, relying on let-out clauses the customer has not read.

Neither party has yet said whether it will recommend joining the European single currency in the next Parliament if elected, though both have promised a referendum if they decide to do so. This makes democracy a farce. The Government's excuse is that its negotiating position would be destroyed if it stated now that it did not intend to join during the next Parliament. That is quite untrue. The 14 other European countries all assume that Britain under a Conservative government would not join in the first round; that is fully discounted in the negotiations already. Labour's excuse is even feebler. It says that when the time comes, it will decide on the balance of economic advantage. The decision is now so close that the facts and arguments are already clear. The truth is that neither party is prepared to tell the electorate what its intentions are.

William Rees-Mogg

one listens to Labour spokesmen, one hears the implicit message that the Government has been spending too little on health, education and welfare, and that Labour would spend more. In formal terms, Labour is quite skilful at avoiding specific commitments while arousing expectations of higher expenditure. At the same time, Labour appears to be promising not to raise taxes. These contradictory commitments may be technically reconciled in the small print, but they are still contradictory, and politicians should not behave like dubious hire-purchase com-

Tory line as well, and a confused scurrying of staff officers in the fog. The Cabinet cannot make up its mind about Europe, and therefore cannot exploit Labour's weakness on the European issue.

If the Conservatives do not press home their attack, Labour is going to win. Tony Blair's success in building a coalition of progressive opinion is almost breathtaking. He has even turned the constitutional issues which overrode the intellectualism of Prior House into an agency for mass recruitment. The Liberal Democrats have been lured into constitutional talks which make Tony Blair appear a betwixt-and-between. He will not need a Lib-Lab pact if he manages to steal enough Liberal votes in the general election itself. He has not been foolish enough to concede proportional representation, which would have tied him to the Liberal Democrats forever.

Tony Blair's strategy is a ruthless one. He has imposed tough discipline on his own party; if he wins the election, as prime minister he will have patronage with which to reinforce it. He has killed socialism and replaced it with social democracy. He has covered his most vulnerable areas with a screen of calculated ambiguity. He has lured many Liberal Democrats and centrist Conservatives into his camp. He has fulfilled this strategy almost on his own: no-one else could have done it.

Yet the strategy is vulnerable. In the beginning, Tony Blair's risk was that he would not be able to carry old Labour with him. But old Labour is yesterday's threat. Now the risk is that his two big ambiguities, expenditure and Europe, will be attacked successfully by the Tories. Fortunately for him, the Tories cannot make him say what he would do about the single currency unless they first say what they would do themselves.

Whose party will it be?

Chris Patten's next move will say a lot about the Tories, says Peter Riddell

Chris Patten is one of those rare politicians who continues to intrigue the political world even when he is several thousand miles away. When MPs and fellow journalists learnt that I would be spending a few days in Hong Kong before Christmas, en route to a family holiday in Australia, they said: "You must find out what Chris is really intending to do when he comes back."

To both friends and enemies, Mr Patten is the Prince over the Water. His repeated protestations of being unsure whether he wants to return to the Commons are never taken at face value. His friends hope that he can be persuaded to stand at an early by-election in the next Parliament. His enemies fear a plot, involving John Major, to get Mr Patten back so he can obstruct their desire to push the party rightwards.

But like most conspiracy theories, this talk is mainly froth without substance. There was never any chance of Mr Patten resigning the governorship to stand at the general election. Now, he means what he says about waiting and seeing. He has plenty to do in the final six months of British rule, not least persuading the Government to fulfill its moral obligations by extending British citizenship to the few thousand in the non-Chinese ethnic minority. This has been opposed by the Home Office, though it is supported by Mr Patten. After June 30, Mr Patten intends to take a long holiday, write a book about the lessons of Asian economic success, and find a new London home. So don't expect him to be addressing fringe meetings at the Conservative Party conference.



Few politicians have had a successful career in the Commons. Lord Curzon a century ago, and Lord Halifax (as he became) in the 1920s as Viceroy of India, did not return to the Commons, but Roy Jenkins was one of the few to do so after being President of the European Commission in the late 1970s. As David Gilmour describes in his superb biography, Curzon had a wretched time on his return from India, often falling into despair, and describing his life as a failure and a mockery. Even Halifax waited more than a year after leaving India — admittedly at his own choice — before taking a Junior Cabinet post.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is the only one to have returned to the Commons. And his high point was winning the Hillhead by-election in March 1982. He did not enjoy his

subsequent five years in the Commons, obtaining more satisfaction from his Glasgow constituency. He is the only one of the seven former-MP British EU Commissioners (excluding the current two) to go back to the Commons. All but one of the others went to the Lords, Ivor Richard now being the Labour leader there.

But Lord Jenkins returned to the Commons in the special circumstances of the launch of the SDP. He probably could not have become, and would not have wanted to become, a Labour MP again. His experience also shows the problems. Generations move on, and the Commons changes. The Conservative Party after the next election will be very different from the Conservative

Party Mr Patten knew five years ago.

Moreover, as Mr Patten has said, the Commons is not something to be considered casually, like dropping back into a club. It requires an unequivocal commitment, as well as luck, since constituency parties now are not easily impressed by grand figures. The idea of a seat being reserved for Mr Patten is daft, though a few senior MPs with an eye on the Lords have suggested as much. While the possibility of creating a vacancy in a seat like Chelsea was mooted after his defeat at Bath in 1992, it was quickly rejected by Mr Patten. The rumours before Sir Nicholas Scott's decision that he was keeping the new Kensington and Chelsea seat warm for Mr Patten were nonsense.

The other option, also mooted for Mr Patten in 1992, is a place in the Lords. But few peers have real

influence. The days when a Curzon, Halifax, Home or Carrington could be Foreign Secretary from the Lords are over. Occasionally a peer can have a bit of a behind-the-scenes fixer, as Lord Whitelaw did in the mid 1980s, but attempts to find a new "Willie" have failed. Mr Patten, who will be 53 on his return, is young for such a role.

If all this goes to show how narrow is the career structure of British politics. You have either to be committed to climbing the ladder of promotion, or out. This results in a loss of people of talent and experience. Mr Patten would, probably now, be a better minister than before he lost his seat. He reckons that he would use his time better and be a better delegator. Moreover, whatever the arguments about his handling of China in 1992-93, Mr Patten has been right to seek to enshrine democratic rights in Hong Kong. The alternative was not a quiet handover, but the absurdity of Britain opposing protests by democratic activists.

Mr Patten still has much to contribute to public life. He retains an enthusiasm for political controversy. His views have changed over the last five years. He now stresses the need to limit the size of the State. This does not mean draconian cuts to aim at Asian levels of public spending (20 per cent or less of national income), but it does involve shifting the balance between public and private provision.

What is distinctive, and appealing, about Mr Patten is not so much his ministerial record — three middle-level posts before a mixed 18 months as Environment Secretary — but his approach to politics. He stands out because of his decency and humanity, because he is not an obsessive. Westminster speculation has missed the point. The question is not whether Mr Patten wants to become Tory leader — which would be highly unlikely — or as accepts — but rather whether he sees the post-election Conservative Party as a congenial place to serve. Much will depend on who is the leader. Mr Patten's decision will say much about the future of the Tories.

Out of range



The Duke out shooting

LESS than a month after the Duke of Edinburgh appalled victims of the Dunblane tragedy by suggesting that members of gun clubs were no more dangerous than cricketers, his award scheme is to consider dropping marksmanship as one of its activities.

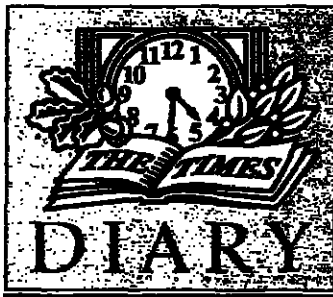
A sitting panel of the Duke of Edinburgh Award will meet in February to discuss whether rifle-range shooting should remain as one of the 300 or so skills that participants can learn as part of the scheme.

"Marksmanship is on the meeting's agenda," said a representative yesterday. "They will be discussing whether it is still relevant, but I am not going to pre-empt the outcome."

Shooting with air pistols, air rifles and proper 22 rifles has been offered since the award was set up 40 years ago to promote enterprise among teenagers of an outdoor, Gordonstoun-inspired, cold-morning-baths variety. The Army Cadet Force was one of the first organisations to become involved, and marksmanship arrived with it. "Very few people do marksmanship with the award

now," said the representative. Prince Philip will not be at the meeting, and he is still wary of any moves to curb shooting. Even so, public reaction forced him into an unprecedented apology before Christmas for his suggestion that the sort of chap who uses a gun for sport isn't very different from the one who swings a golf club, tennis racket or cricket bat.

● The great minds of Cambridge University expect nothing but the best, but even they were surprised at the quality of the local pantomime cast this year. The comedian Barry Cryer, starring as the Dame



in Dick Whittington at the Arts Theatre, is described in the programme as having received an award from the Royal Society, the world's senior scientific body. Perhaps they meant the Royal Television Society.

Clean game

FOOTBALL FOLK are emotional types, as Graham Taylor, the former England manager, eloquently demonstrated in a documentary during which he used the F-word 40 times, a new record for television. Malcolm Allison, who once managed Middlesbrough, has now been sacked by a radio station from his job as a football commentator because of his forceful language. Century Radio, based in the North East, had warned him, and held

up the red card after he advised a player while commenting on a Coventry v Middlesbrough match after Christmas to "get the f— ball".

The station's general manager, John Myers, is upset: "There is no way back for him now," he said. "It's very sad because he is such a nice bloke. We sacked him a year ago for using the f-word, but due to public demand, we asked him to come back — with the proviso that he would watch his language."

Chapeau chap

AS Jacques Chirac struggles with a host of economic and social woes,



Hats off, a year on

France is indulging in a bout of dewy-eyed nostalgia for the man he replaced. "Why all this Mitterrand idolatry?" asks the conservative newspaper *Le Figaro* as the first anniversary of his death on January 8 approaches. "Certainly not because of his record, which comprises a lowering of France in all regards."

The corruption scandals of his tenure, the unemployment statistics and the recession are ignored in the present *mélée* of Mitterrand mania: pride of place in the museum of headwear near Lyons has just been given over to a broad-brim hat, customised with the initials F.M.

True story

BACK in the autumn, tragedy struck at the Royal Opera House. Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers of the operatic stage, quite unexpectedly refused to perform Rodolfo and Mimi in *La Bohème*. They had been booked long in advance, tickets had been sold for up to £130 each, and the Opera House was left high and dry, offering up limp excuses about exhaustion on their behalf.

In next month's *Classic FM* magazine, Alagna finally explains why



Duty before operatic romance

he and his wife pulled out. Angela's sister was killed in a crash, leaving behind her six-year-old daughter, Isabella, whom the couple have since adopted. "At the time we cancelled *La Bohème* in London and everybody said: 'It is a scandal, I have my ticket.' But we stuck by our sister, that is all. The matter is closed."

P.H.S



HIDDEN AGENDA

Labour should treat the constitution with caution

It may be the historic task of the Liberals, John Maynard Keynes once argued, to give ideas to the Labour Party and then to the Conservatives. Some time has passed since the second role was discharged. The revelation that a Labour-Liberal committee has drafted an agreed approach to constitutional reform suggests the first function is alive and well.

If reports are accurate, consensus has already been reached on the introduction of a Bill of Rights and Freedom of Information Act as well as reform of the House of Lords. A Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, significant regional government, are still being discussed, as is the switch of the electoral system towards a type more conducive to the centre party. Tony Blair is unlikely to embrace proportional representation before the general election. However, he will wait until he sees the size of his majority before ruling it out.

Many, particularly on the left of the Labour Party, have expressed anger that so few among their ranks were aware of this continuing co-operation, and fury that leading Liberal Democrats appear to wield more influence than several members of the Shadow Cabinet. This concern should really be directed at the substance of these discussions, not the symbolism. For the future fate of a Blair government may rest upon their outcome.

If Labour held only the shortest of measures it presently seems minded to offer the Liberal Democrats, then it would probably come to little harm. A Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information Act and parliamentary reform would represent a substantial but manageable package, broadly compatible with the principles of the present constitution. Voter antagonism would be improbable. The Conservatives might be outmanoeuvred; Whitehall secrecy and hereditary peerage do not look promis-

ing terrain to defend. The legislative cost would be limited. Mr Blair could claim to have made some long overdue modernisation to the institutions of British government while preserving the time to do much more besides.

That would not be the case if Labour swallowed whole the plans pressed upon it by such groups as Charter 88 and their Liberal allies. This might seem attractive to some new Labour supporters as a programme that combined genuine radicalism with minimal expenditure. Yet even if Mr Blair abandoned the longstanding convention that constitutional measures should be debated, line-by-line, on the floor of the Commons, not in committee, little parliamentary space would be available for anything else. The proposals themselves would be extremely controversial and prompt internal division. They would also represent an opportunity for the Conservative opposition to reunite. Yet, outside Scotland — and even here — politics is about more than devotion. There is little evidence that constitutional reform stands among the reasons why the electorate might choose a Labour government.

In short, Paddy Ashdown and his followers would win by far the better part of such a bargain. One does not need to be a member of the Tribune Group to note an irony in the first Labour government for 18 years implementing policies that the Liberal Party has failed in the last 80 years to persuade the public to accept. Advocates of radical action resort to fundamental constitutional change is the "necessary precondition" before more ambitious innovations can be undertaken in a second administration. No Labour government has yet served a full term and been re-elected for another five years. If Mr Blair allows the next Parliament to be shaped by the Liberal Democrat agenda, that record will not change.

NEWT ON THE RACK

The Speaker should still retain the confidence of Republicans

These have been difficult weeks for Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives. Although personally unpopular with the American electorate, his strategy and leadership had proved strong enough to see the re-election of his Republican opponents in November. That victory, the first of its kind in almost seven decades, seemed enough to silence criticism.

That was before the House Ethics Committee decided that Gopac, the political organisation he once headed, had violated the law in soliciting tax-deductible contributions to fund a college course of lectures that Mr Gingrich had given. As so often, the original misdemeanour was compounded by subsequent attempts to minimise its importance. The Speaker has conceded that he provided "inaccurate, incomplete, and unreliable information" to his colleagues.

Of itself this should not cause Mr Gingrich's downfall. The ultimate verdict from the committee is unlikely to be stronger than a reprimand. Unless further revelations emerge, then the Speaker will be re-elected when Congress reassembles in Washington tomorrow. Despite that, many Republicans are openly nervous. They would be grateful if their standard-bearer chose voluntary retirement.

The Republican case against their leader is threefold. Many believe that his recent difficulties will make it impossible for him to recapture public support and the party cannot be saddled with an electoral liability. In addition, more cynically, House Republicans need him rather less than two years ago. Then they unexpectedly won power after 40 years in the wilderness. Their tenure could have proved an embarrassing fiasco were it not for the direction he offered.

Furthermore, the Gingrich case is proving a damaging distraction. The emerging scandal about how the Democratic National Committee sought vast donations from Asian businessmen, accepted contributions that were palpably illegal, then offered access to the White House and, allegedly, the opportunity to influence American trade policy in return, invites genuine comparison with Watergate. Yet Republicans are, some suggest, inhibited in exploiting it while the Speaker's own probity, on affairs of an admittedly trivial scale, can be questioned.

This is not an inconsequential argument. If Mr Gingrich encounters any further ethical difficulties even his most ardent supporters might need to reassess their position. Before that, though, House Republicans need to consider the consequences of losing him. In large part this affair has acquired its prominence through Democratic pressure, partly as revenge for the fall of Speaker Jim Wright in 1989, but largely out of hostility and fear of the agenda embodied by Mr Gingrich. That campaign would probably intensify, not disappear, if the present Speaker were sacrificed.

Nor is it difficult to detect why House Democrats want to be rid of their nemesis. Mr Gingrich is not irreplaceable but any successor is unlikely to bring the same combination of intellectual vision, political planning and the ability to broker compromise between Republican factions. The party would be less effective as a result of his departure. The Speaker would be well advised to proceed with great caution in the months ahead. But he requires continued Republican support as much for what he can deliver in the future as for his undoubted successes in the recent past.

FLEETING FAME AT THE BAR

Nelson Mandela is no longer an icon for today's students

When Nelson Mandela was a prisoner on Robben Island, a persecuted symbol of apartheid's evil, his name and fame were adopted by student unions across the country. Bars, buildings and halls of residence were named after the African National Congress leader; his image was an icon for crusaders in the anti-apartheid struggle, the more potent for being locked away from public view. Yet from the moment of his liberation, the mystery began to fade. Mr Mandela became a familiar face on television, no longer a suffering martyr, but a moral politician beset by the daily compromises of politics.

A new, more worldly generation of students has turned its attention to heroes nearer home: to the icons of screen and stage, to sporting personalities and to the showbiz plutocrats able to bestow not only their name on a bar but perhaps also some new stools and a karaoke machine. Nelson Mandela was just another elderly African leader. Freddie Mercury, on the other hand, was dead, misunderstood and a victim of Aids who could be adopted for today's fashionable causes. The Mandela bar quietly became the Freddie Mercury bar. Of the 30 or more Mandela bars once found in British universities, others opted for Oasis, Des Lynam, the BBC presenter, or even Bruce Forsyth — though student players in that generation game have since reverted to a more revered saint in the Martin Luther King bar.

Embarrassed student leaders insist that today's young drinkers have not turned their backs on the anti-imperialist struggle — whatever its current manifestation. But there is a feeling that these causes are yesterday's, the pretexts for the great student sit-ins of the late Sixties. And anyway, who wants now to be associated with a President preoccupied more with investment than divestment, fighting crime than fighting the capitalist conspiracy?

Rarely do the reputations of revolutionaries ripen in respectability. In politics, as in the arts, a premature or violent end guarantees a reputation untouched by failure or decline. Wilfred Owen, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe share with Kennedy, Che Guevara and Eva Peron the nostalgia for what might later have been — though would probably have only declined.

Mr Mandela will not grieve that he has been usurped by the transient idols of Britpop. He won a more warming accolade last summer, with the excited smiles of the children in Brixton, and the evident emotion of Betty Boothroyd as she walked hand in hand with him down the steps. At Oxford, at least, he has had a statesman's revenge: not all New College found the renaming of the Mandela bar the Joanna Lumley Room absolutely fabulous, and restored the old man's name above the door. And South Africa's leader has, after all, won his struggle: which is more than can be said for either of the feuding brothers of Oasis.

Bringing abortion into party politics

From Dr Geoffrey M. Seeff

Sir, I am not one of those who believe that the Church, in this case the Roman Catholic Church, should desist from comment on or direct involvement in politics. Access to abortion has wide-ranging economic, social and moral implications and Cardinal Hume is perfectly within his rights to advise the followers of his faith not to vote for parliamentary candidates who support the principles enshrined in the present laws on the matter (reports, December 28 and January 1). Similarly, the Pro-Life Alliance is entitled to put up candidates to fight the general election on this platform.

However, having entered the political fray, the Cardinal cannot be allowed to shy away from telling us where he stands on the secular aspects of the nation's governance. I assume that he is not so naive as to suggest to Catholic voters that the "evil" of abortion overrides every other aspect of their lives, so he should now make clear the relative importance of the issue.

How would abortion rank in comparison with some of the other "moral" questions of our day, such as broadcasting and the media, crime and punishment, medical research and vivisection and the National Lottery? And how would the Cardinal advise people to vote if the only anti-abortion candidate in their constituency was against further gun controls and in favour of hanging?

As for the Pro-Life Alliance, I look forward to reading its party manifesto. With no robust political philosophy underpinning the grouping, if policies are presented on issues other than abortion, it will be of considerable interest to know the method by which they have been developed and how committed to them are its candidates — although in this particular regard they may be no worse than either of the Labour or Conservative parties.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY M. SEEFF
(Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate, Chingford and Woodford Green),
32c Churchfields,
South Woodford, E18,
January 2.

Investigations of MPs

From the Editor of The Guardian

Sir, I am mystified by Sir Gordon Downey's letter (January 3) which may have given the impression that *The Guardian* has been mainly responsible for a delay in him examining the allegations against Neil Hamilton and other MPs. This is wrong.

The case against Mr Hamilton and his colleagues was sent to Sir Gordon on October 8. Sir Gordon subsequently argued that we would have to surrender our right to publish any supporting material we sent him since it would attract parliamentary privilege. I cannot believe that any newspaper would agree to surrender its copyright on its own material to a parliamentary committee. There was thus a delay while this point was settled.

Sir Gordon received the main bundle of documents at the end of November and has been in consultation with our lawyers since. Until Sir Gordon rang me on Thursday afternoon I had had no indication from him that he was lacking any further evidence.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN RUSBRIDGE,
Editor, *The Guardian*,
119 Farringdon Road, EC1,
January 3.

Honours due

From Mr Charles J. Swallow

Sir, The Government claims to be concerned about education. A cursory look at the New Year's Honours list (reports and leading article, December 31) suggests that their priorities are otherwise.

The award of an MBE to the elderly (and no doubt thoroughly deserving) "lollipop" man may help to achieve the Prime Minister's stated intention to create a classless society. Yet one looks in vain, year after year, for the singing out for honours of virtually any of the heads or teachers throughout the land, many of whom have given a lifetime of dedicated service to the young.

Teachers, like children, need encouragement. An award costs the Government nothing.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES SWALLOW
(Retired headmaster),
Manor Barn House,
Wendlebury, Bicester, Oxfordshire,
January 3.

Royal Parks cuts

From Mr G. F. C. Plowden

Sir, Heaven forbid that the Royal Parks should get more money (letter, December 29) if they are going to spend it on such fancy vulgarities as the coloured lights let into the ground in St James's Park, or the flowering shrubs planted last year to spoil the beauty of the vistas among the trees in Kensington Gardens. Such attempts at prettification do more damage than neglect or decay.

Yours faithfully,
G. F. C. PLOWDEN,
22 Prince Edward Mansions, W2,
December 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'War of words' over Elgin Marbles

From Professor Robert Browning,
Chairman, British Committee for the
Restoration of the Parthenon Marbles

Sir, Some of the points made in your leading article of December 21, "No Elgin, no marbles", call for clarification (letters, December 28).

First, I do not understand what is meant by saying that by being brought to London, the marbles have "become themselves". In the 15th century they aroused the ecstatic admiration of Cyriac of Ancona, the founding father of classical archaeology.

In 1674 the Marquis de Nointel, Louis XIV's Ambassador to Turkey, had his artist prepare minutely detailed drawings of all the sculptures. A century later, another French Ambassador, the Comte de Choiseul-Gouffier, suggested to the Polish Diet that a replica of the Parthenon, sculptures and all, be built in Warsaw to celebrate the new Constitution of Poland. Lord Elgin (1766-1841) was not the first to recognise their perfection.

Second, it is not mean-spirited as well as inaccurate to describe the planned Acropolis Museum as "a speculative gamble" and potentially as "architectural blackmail". The need for a new and larger Acropolis Museum was recognised 20 years ago, at the same time as the Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments was set up by the then Greek Minister of Culture, Professor Constantine Trypanis. The contract for the new museum has now been signed, and preparatory work has already begun.

Thirdly, the war of words over the location of the marbles has hardly been static during the last 15 years. Let us recall, *inter alia*, the publication in 1987 of Christopher Hitchens's *The Elgin Marbles: Should They Be Returned?*; the 1988 debate in the Oxford Union, which voted overwhelmingly that the marbles should be sent back to Greece; the telephone poll in April last year, following a Channel 4 film on the subject, in which out of 100,000 callers 92,500 supported the return; and last but not least a *Times* leader

on April 6, 1992, which ended with these words: "The marbles should be returned and the cobwebs of museum curatorship swept aside".

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT BROWNING, Chairman,
The British Committee for the
Restoration of the Parthenon Marbles,
5 St Paul's Place, N1,
January 2.

From Mrs S. R. Swan

Sir, I am sad and angry at the feeble letters supporting the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece.

Why on earth should we send them back? These lovely and precious objects were legitimately acquired, meticulously cared for and are splendidly housed in the British Museum for millions of people to enjoy.

Your leading article of December 21 was quite right. As a nation we should be proud of our marvellous museums and dismise all suggestions of returning objects to their countries of origin. What a game of musical chairs would ensue if this were applied universally.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN SWAN,
251 Kennington Road, SE11,
January 1.

From Mr Alec Tilley

Sir, There has been a good deal of support in your columns for the return of the Elgin Marbles, but it seems that one of the main stumbling blocks is the fear of setting a precedent. If the Elgin Marbles go home to Greece, what museum piece is safe?

Could they not be returned as a gesture to mark the new millennium? That would merely create a precedent for repatriating one national treasure every 1,000 years — a prospect that ought not to upset museum curators.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC TILLEY,
Fieldfare,
East Street, Hambledon,
Waterlooville, Hampshire,
January 3.

Tracing Greenwich Meridian line

From Miss Carole Stott

Sir, You report ("Lost time", Diary, December 31) that Greenwich has lost the Meridian line. This is not so.

It was England in two from the East Coast just north of the Humber to Peasehaven on the South Coast, east of Brighton, and is recognised and marked at numerous points along its track. Brass plaques, trees, a rose garden, an obelisk and painted lines mark its route.

As occupants of Louth, Boston, Waltham Abbey, East Grinstead and Lewes go about their daily business they regularly trip between the eastern and western hemispheres, not to mention those in the windmill, pub and golf club, and the schools, railway stations and farms that are bisected by the line.

Many of the marks, including some in the buildings and on the roads and pathways of Greenwich, were installed in 1984 when the Greenwich Meridian celebrated 100 years of international acceptance. I had the pleasure of motoring along the line that year, either walked or cycled parts of it, the Red Arrows parachuted onto it and the Brownies polished it.

The Greenwich Meridian is far from lost. After all, it is impossible to lose something that is an imaginary line in the sky.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLE STOTT (co-author,
The Greenwich Meridian,
Ordnance Survey, 1984; Department
of Navigational Sciences, Old Royal
Observatory, Greenwich, 1977-89),
28 Muskoka Avenue,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
January 2.

Visiting Australia

From The High Commissioner
of Australia

Sir, Bernard Levin seems to have got hold of the wrong form for his Australian visa ("No room down under", December 13).

The form he needs "for tourism or other recreational activities" is a simple two-page — one page of helpful guidance, and the other the page he needs to complete which actually asks only a few of the questions he mentions in his article.

There are more detailed application forms for such categories as tem-

porary business visas and intending migrants. There is another longer form which is issued by our staff when they have doubts about the applicant's intentions to leave Australia at the end of the time allowed for their trip, but that is hardly ever needed for Britons.

The 300,000 UK tourists who visit us each year and the two-page form get not only a warm welcome but minimal bureaucracy.

Yours faithfully,
NEAL BLEWETT,
Australian High Commission,
Australia House, Strand, WC2,
January 1.

Fathers who smoke

From Ms Anne Kenny

Sir, On reading your report (December 17) that children born to men who smoked prior to their child's conception are more likely to succumb to childhood cancers, I must have been sure such attributions made to the male species.

However, unlike a woman, who would have resignedly added a further weight to her ever increasing burden of guilt and culpability, Lord Kilbracken (letter, December 30, *et seq*) challenges the assertion and reduces it to a statistical irrelevance.

Yours faithfully,
A. KENNY,
1 Winhill Road,
New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire,
January 3.

Up, up and away

From Mr Gareth Boote

Sir, Dr Kenneth Swinburne (letter, January 3) queries a three-year guarantee offered in an advert for a wrist-watch, but makes no complaint that pre-Christmas adverts for hot-air balloon flights offered no guarantee at all (Weekend, December 14). Was he not interested, or did he presume there would be no strings attached?

Yours faithfully,
GARETH BOOTE,
13 Bathaston Grove,
Leigh, Lancashire,
January 3.

Letters should carry a daytime
telephone number. They may be
faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Language, culture and nationhood

From Mr Richard Alexander

Sir, Mr Peter Stockhill, in support of his argument that black American English, or Ebonics, is a valid separate language, not only refers to the undeniable cultural contribution that African Americans have made, but goes on to state that "language is perceived as a stepping-stone to nationhood" (letter, January 2). The first is a non-sequitur, the second is simply not necessarily the case.

That a group, ethnic or otherwise, has a separate culture, or even cultural identity, from those surrounding it does not in itself mean that that group has a separate language. Merseyside has made a clear cultural contribution to this country, both in music and in poetry, yet few would suggest that the Scouse dialect is anything more than a variant of English.

As for language as a claim to national identity, Austrians are very clear that theirs is a distinct nation, not merely an independent country, with a separate identity encompassing history and some of Europe's greatest musical contributions. But they do not claim that their language is other than a dialect of German, no more distinct than that of Bavaria or the Palatinate.

Furthermore, it is to be noted that where a language has been cited in support of a separate national identity, as in the case of Welsh, Lithuanian or Catalan, it has tended to differ rather more markedly from that of the dominant group than does Ebonics.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD ALEXANDER,
9 Chaffway, Sevenoaks, Kent,
January 2.

London walks

From Mr Neville Labovitch

Sir, I support Mr Stephen O'Brien's plea (letter, December 29) for a new year drive to improve the lot of the London walker. The 12-mile Silver Jubilee Walkway surely provides the foundation for a range of such improvements as he suggests.

As a result of work over 20 years a traffic-free walkway from Lambeth Palace to Tower Bridge already exists: much could be done along the Silver Jubilee Walkway's route on the North Bank — Mr O'Brien's suggested sites of Horse Guards Road and Parade, Trafalgar Square and Parliament Square all lie on it.

If the authorities concerned were to co-ordinate plans it would be possible to amalgamate these improvements into a significant and lasting contribution to the millennium year.

And why just London? Every big city could contribute to such a campaign.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE LABOVITCH
(Chairman,
Silver Jubilee Walkway Trust),
23 Ennismore Gardens, SW7,
January 3.

BBC World Service

From Mr Michael Kane

Sir, The report, "The Archers recover their lost past in Tokyo and Kentucky" (January 2), proves how important *The Archers* serial is to expats and Anglophiles around the world. Therefore, why doesn't the World Service broadcast it, either daily or in a weekly omnibus?

Perhaps John Birt's much-feared internal restructuring of the World Service will actually benefit listeners if it forces programmers to look to the wealth of BBC material currently heard only in the United Kingdom, to the impoverishment of the rest of the English-speaking world.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KANE,
30-43 37th Street,
Astoria,
New York 11103,
January 2.

Cold calculation

From Mrs Noel McLeod

Sir, Your general weather forecast for today predicts scattered light snow showers in eastern coastal parts but more "organised" sleet or snow in southernmost parts of England and Wales.

Organised by whom? And could the organiser be persuaded to organise something different?

Yours faithfully,
NOEL MCLEOD,
48 Witley Court,
Coram Street, WC1,
January 3.

Fair play

From Mr Alan Richardson

Sir, Having sampled the welter of criticism of the England cricket team for their performance in Zimbabwe, I think that it should be pointed out, in the interest of balance, that on this tour England twice defeated Matabeleland quite decisively, in a one-day match and a four-day match.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN RICHARDSON,
Tallinn,
12b St Martin's Avenue,
Epsom, Surrey,
January 4.

OBITUARIES

BARRY EAST



Barry East, property developer, died on December 26 aged 81. He was born on June 5, 1915.

Barry East was one of the leading figures in Britain's postwar commercial property boom. Along with such men as Jack Cotton, John Levy and Harold Samuels, he helped to change the face of countless towns and cities, transforming their commercial centres with new office and retail developments. The company he founded in 1950, Town & City Properties, had grown by 1973 to be the second largest public property company in the country. The collapse in the property market of 1974 hit it hard, however, and only a reverse takeover by Jeffrey (now Lord) Sterling's Sterling Assurance Trust saved Town & City from disaster; it was to be almost a decade before it returned to profits. The company now forms part of the P & O Group.

Born in London, Barry East was born in London and educated at Southdown College and the Regent Street Polytechnic. In 1933 he was articled to a City firm of chartered surveyors; two years later he went into practice on his own account in Mount Street, Mayfair.

He volunteered for the Army and served in the Royal Engineers, finishing the war with the rank of captain. A chance postwar encounter with an old friend, Sam Messer, led him to the London office of another postwar property giant, Jack Cotton, where Messer was a partner; within months East was a partner himself. He remained with the practice for ten years before leaving in 1950 to form Town & City Properties.

In London, Town & City was to acquire such landmark buildings as Berkeley Square House in Mayfair and the Adelphi building in the Strand; it also had a stake in the exhibition halls at Olympia and Earls Court. But East was, above all, a retail specialist and Town & City was a property developer in the most active sense.

His schemes transformed (or better, reformed) the centres of such towns as Uxbridge and Basingstoke; and, through one of its acquisitions, the Arndale Property Trust, it was involved in the creation of the covered shopping centres which began to revolutionise retailing in the 1960s and 1970s. It also undertook prominent station developments at Holborn Viaduct, Moorgate and Waterloo, and was one of the first UK property companies to expand overseas, building investments in Europe, the United States and Australia.

A dignified, quietly spoken man, nicknamed "the whispering baritone" by his friends, East approached business with an attitude that was calm, rational and, for much of his career, essentially cautious, anxious to balance new developments against existing assets. Under his direction, Town & City stuck mostly to what it did best, never venturing outside property and rarely straying beyond the commercial sphere; its residential interests were insignificant and its portfolio aimed at balance, with 40 per cent in offices, 40 per cent in shops, 10 per cent in industrial developments and 10 per cent overseas.

Throughout the 1960s Town & City grew steadily by a mixture of property purchases and company acquisitions. The latter were always uncontentious — East had no appetite for hostile takeovers — and included Arndale, Eldonville (the industrial developer built up by the future Lord Young of Graffham) and the Laurie Group run by two rising property men of the younger generation, Stephen Laurie and Elliott Berner. Unlike some of his more flamboyant rivals, who ran what seemed like one-man shows, East was always ready to draw on the managerial expertise acquired in these takeovers, and he worked closely with a small and able team.

In the heady days of the early 1970s, however, when it must have looked as if property values could only go on rising, East's natural caution seems to have been swept aside in the euphoria that gripped the rest of the property sector. In the summer of 1973, with an expansion programme of well over £300 million already under way, Town & City made two further massive acquisitions in the space of ten days, taking over Sterling Land for £28 million and Central and District Properties for £97 million.

Those acquisitions put the company's assets in the region of £600 million, but they also took its borrowings past the £300 million mark. In combination with a number of city-centre developments of unprecedented scale and complexity, the expansion left Town & City helplessly over-exposed when the property market crashed the following year.

Jeffrey Sterling's Trust merged with Town & City in what amounted to a reverse takeover in June 1974; the companies had already collaborated on development projects. At the time, East's property company was, in Jeffrey Sterling's words, "bleeding in

own analogy of the miner's lamp may explain something. From his days in the pits he believed passionately that in any profession it was up to those who succeeded to help those who were less fortunate. To this end he raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for the Glasgow branch of the Fund, largely by persuading the great and the good to attend vast luncheons in the city, where they would sit and listen to the even greater, while, in the course of it, shelling out substantial sums of money. Year after year Glasgow broke all the Press Fund records.

As well as fundraising for the NPF, he helped the families of prisoners at his local prison, Shots, and also served as a JP. In 1988 he was appointed OBE for his charitable work. Round of face, short of stature, substantial of waist, Jim Rodger was an archetypal West of Scotland man, quite impervious to any distinctions of class or creed, as much at home in the manager's boardroom as on the terraces, with a network of contacts that any ordinary politician would have died for. A great raconteur, his best stories did, admittedly, tend to revolve around himself. But since his interests and enthusiasms so obviously embraced humanity in its broadest aspects, no one could seriously hold that against him.

He is survived by his wife Cathy and a daughter.

JIM RODGER



Jim Rodger, OBE, sports journalist and fundraiser, died in Lanarkshire on January 3 aged 74. He was born in Shots on March 13, 1922.

session that raised him to a position of influence far beyond the apparent boundaries of his profession. The Shadow Scottish Secretary, George Robertson, said that he was a brilliant backroom operator, whose "unique combination of charm and relentless persistence made him one of the most formidable political and sporting characters in Scotland."

Jim Rodger, born and brought up in Shots, Lanarkshire, began his career as a miner, working underground at Caldergroun in the era of pit ponies. In later days he always liked to describe himself as the "wee pit boy from Shots," and he regularly talked of the "shining light" of the miner's lamp as the perfect image for his fundraising activities. But it was as a football reporter that he first made his national reputation. It is hard now to convey just how great his influence was — it would be inconceivable today, however cosy the financial relations between the tabloid press and leading football clubs.

For 40 years on the *Daily Record*, and later the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Mirror*, Jim Rodger was a kingmaker in the football world, his scoops as remarkable for their accuracy as their accuracy. He pointed the young Alex Ferguson in the direction of his first big job, as manager of Aberdeen, then helped to engineer his move to Manchester United.

In similar fashion, he spotted the potential of the late Jack Stein and eased him into his first job at Dunfermline, advising him on all his later moves, up to and including the management of the national team. He broke nearly all the big Scottish transfer stories of his day, including the moves of Denis Law to Torino and back to Manchester United, Jim Baxter from Rangers to Sunderland, Martin Buchan from Aberdeen to Manchester United, and Steve Archibald from Aberdeen to Spurs.

At the same time, he won the trust of everyone he dealt with. Bill Nicholson, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, once handed him for safekeeping the entire allocation of Rangers tickets for a European Cup Winners' match against Spurs at White Hart Lane. Jim slept with them under his pillow before deliv-

ering them safely to the Rangers headquarters next day. A lifelong Labour supporter, he took a keen interest in politics, and was an avid collector of the volumes published by Victor Gollancz under the Left Book Club imprint. He helped Harold Wilson to launch his general election campaign in Glasgow in 1966, and his contacts in the party continued to be impeccable. Tony Blair described him as "one of the most remarkable organisers of our time. He was never off the phone with ideas and suggestions."

But when it came to fundraising, his other great love, party barriers simply disappeared. No one could ever quite explain why Jim threw himself so avidly into raising money for the Newspaper Press Fund, a charity devoted to helping retired journalists down on their luck. But his

all directions". It was, however, too big to be allowed to fail, particularly in the light of the secondary banking crisis then developing. The process of recovery proved to be slow; after disposals totalling some £500 million, and diversification into the service sector, the company finally returned a £9 million pre-tax profit in 1983.

East had stepped down as chairman when Sterling took over. He remained as president, but chose not to draw his annual consultancy fee of £20,000 until such time as the company's dividends had returned to the level which they were at in 1972-73. The consultancy agreement expired in 1980.

On his retirement from active business, East devoted himself to sport, his other great love. His lifetime involvement with the world of amateur football came about when he took an Army team to play Leytonstone Football Club at the end of the war. The Army won by three goals to nil, but East was asked to join the Leytonstone committee. He was honorary secretary for many years, before becoming president; when, after three mergers, the club became part of Dagenham & Redbridge. East was the first president of the merged club. He was watching the team play in very cold conditions on Boxing Day when he collapsed and died.

East's involvement in sport extended beyond his presidencies of Dagenham & Redbridge and of the Leytonstone Football League. He was a vice-president of the Essex County Football Association and of the Essex County Cricket Club, where he was instrumental in the building of the pavilion at Chelmsford, which became the permanent county headquarters. He was also a member of the 1974 Commonwealth Games Committee and of the 1976 Olympic Games Committee and a life member of the Olympic Games Association.

His extensive charitable work and contributions reflected his sporting links. He was president of appeals of the National Playing Fields Association in 1975 and a vice-president thereafter and purchased, refurbished and donated the association's headquarters in Belgrave.

Other organisations to benefit from his generosity included the Basingstoke Sports Trust, European Architectural Heritage, the Essex Schools Football Association, and St Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he funded environmental studies. He preferred to support lesser-known causes, without publicity.

His first wife, Clara Stone, whom he married in 1947, died in 1957. He married, secondly, Elizabeth Glenister in 1960; the marriage was dissolved and she died in 1995. He is survived by two sons from his first marriage.

MIREILLE

Mireille, actress, singer and composer, died in Paris on December 29 aged 90. She was born in the same city on September 30, 1906.

MIREILLE may not have been the most illustrious of singers, but — particularly through her own compositions — she did as much as almost anyone this century to promote the cause of *la chanson française*. She was the author of more than 600 songs, a formidable stage presence in her own right and mentor and teacher to much young talent.

Born Mireille Haruch to a Polish father and English mother, she was ten when she was heard playing the piano by the virtuoso Francis Planté, a man who had known Rossini and Liszt. Planté took charge of her musical education but soon saw that she would never be a concert pianist (her hands were too small to cover an octave). Instead, she turned to the theatre, playing Cherubin in *Le Mariage de Figaro* and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Firmin Gémier's Odéon. It was here that she became aware of her gift for composition and also that she met Jean Nohain, the lawyer with a penchant for writing lyrics, whose words would be paired with all her most successful melodies. Their joint activity began in 1928 with an "American-style" opera, *Faust*, but not performed.

Mireille — Gémier had advised her to drop the Haruch — then continued with her acting career, playing alongside the young Jean Gabin in the operetta *Flossie*, and with Buster Keaton in one of his short films. After a stint at the Café de Paris in London, she took the lead in Noël Coward's production of *Manon La Crevette* on Broadway. She met Cole Porter and George Gershwin and went on to compose several film scores in Hollywood.

Her French breakthrough came in 1932, when the publisher Raoul Breton had the cabaret duo, Pills et Tabet, perform *Couchés dans le Foin* (Lying in the Hay) from *Faust*. Suddenly Mireille's music and Nohain's words were on everyone's lips. It was the beginning of a new style in French music, a combination of lightness, liberty and wit.

During the war, when Mireille was banned from performing on stage or over the radio, the couple took refuge in the Corrèze and hid their friend André Malraux from the police. Mireille played an active role in the Resistance, and on one occasion helped to save many lives by averting a German attack on the Maquis.

In 1954, Mireille founded her Petit Conservatoire de la Chanson in Rue de l'Université, Paris. It was the first attempt at organised tuition of the singer and songwriter's art, and it was an enduring one: some 80,000 students attended Mireille's lessons over the next four decades, among them Michel Berger, Hugues Aufray, Françoise Hardy and Claude Mallet.

Not that Mireille claimed much credit. As she declared with a characteristic mixture of trenchancy and modesty: "It is always the students who teach me. I have never taught anyone anything. Charm and *gauloiserie* cannot be inculcated. What I can do is help, detect, talk."

1934, urged by her friends, she began to perform and record her own songs. She would continue to do so sporadically throughout her career. Georges Bravens later paid her tribute by inviting her to sing with him at Bobino and she made her first video in 1991, at the age of 86. In 1995 the director of the Théâtre National Populaire, Jérôme Savary, persuaded her to make a solo performance in the evocatively named Salle Gémier: there she was, a still sparkling presence in a regal Lacroix gown behind her trademark white grand piano.

In 1936, Mireille had married "my voltaire" — Emmanuel Berl — an eminent intellectual and editor of *Marianne*. Although she coquettishly claimed to have read none of her husband's books, the relationship remained solid until Berl's death in 1976.

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She had no children.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL F. R. L. MELLERSH

Air Vice-Marshal F. R. L. ("Togs") Mellersh, CB, DFC and Bar, died on December 19 aged 74. He was born on July 30, 1922.

A DASHING fighter pilot with red hair and lively personality to match, "Togs" Mellersh set an RAF record more than half a century ago by shooting down nine V-1 missiles on one night sortie. During a three-month period in the summer of 1944 he was credited with a total of up to 42 so-called "doodle-bugs", bringing them down over the Channel or open country before they could reach London and other towns in the South East.

Targeting the fast-moving "buzz-bombs" was a daunting task. They outpaced the British Mosquitoes whose pilots had to dive down on them at speed, opening fire with split-second timing and total accuracy. But Mellersh, already a veteran night-fighter at the age of 21 when he joined 96 Squadron at Ford, Sussex, in June that year, had perfected the technique. His skill and daring were recognised that October with the award of his second DFC.

He had won his first 12 months earlier during the air war above the Mediterranean theatre. After joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve (RAFVR) in 1940 and serving as a night fighter pilot in Britain for most of the next two years, he flew out to North Africa in a Beaufighter to join 600 Squadron on Christmas Day, 1942.

During the preceding eight months he had claimed seven enemy aircraft (plus one "probable") above the Western Desert, Sicily and Italy; he



lot with the Royal Naval Air Service in the First World War (later to suffer a violent death in a helicopter accident).

It was his nanny who conferred on Mellersh junior the pet-name of "Togs" — originally "Tog's" — after his father. Disliking all of his Christian names, he happily adopted it and was never known henceforth as anything else.

He went from Winchester House School to the Imperial Service College (then run jointly with Halesbury) where he showed a natural aptitude for all sports. On leaving school, however, he was immediately swept up by the war.

A flight lieutenant when the war ended, Mellersh began his ascent up the RAF ladder. He served for a time as an instructor, ran the Belfast University Air Squadron, attended the staff college (then at Andover) and spent some time in Egypt with the Middle East Air Force. In 1957 he joined the directing staff at staff college (in Bracknell by this time) then went on to command the RAF station at West Raynham, 1965-67.

The final phase of his career included a succession of important staff jobs. He was Chief of Current Plans at Nato's Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe (SHAPE) in Paris, 1967-68, Senior Air Staff Officer (SASO) in RAF Germany, 1970-72, and Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), 1972-74, before moving to Training Command Headquarters on his last job, in charge of officer training. He finally retired in 1977 and was appointed CB in the same year.

Mellersh surprised friends in his retirement by settling down to a quiet country life at Romney Marsh. He chaired the parish council, made his own wine — which he drank from a silver goblet and pronounced excellent — and discovered a passion for gardening. Despite three hip replacements, he tackled everything he took on with his customary energy.

"Togs" Mellersh's first marriage was dissolved. He is survived by his second wife Lisa, a White Russian whom he met in Paris while at SHAPE, and by three children, two sons from his first marriage and a daughter by his second.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev David Ainge, Vicar, Leyton, St Mary w St Edward and St Luke, and Rural Dean of Waltham Forest (Cheshamford); to be also a Non-Residential Canon of Cheshamford Cathedral.
The Rev Canon William Andrew; to be Honorary Curate, West Swindon and The Lydiards (Bristol).
The Rev Paul Avis, Vicar, Stoke Canon, Pulteney w Husham, and Rye w Melcombe (Exeter); to be also Sub-Dean of Exeter Cathedral.
The Rev Rodney Biddle, Vicar, Shrewsbury St George; to be also Priest-in-charge, Eton, Montford w Shirardine and Fitz (Richfield).
The Rev Michael Burke, Vicar, St Lawrence, Canon Pym; St Mary the Virgin, Kings Pym; St Peter, Bicker; to be also Priest-in-charge; St Margaret of Antioch, Wellington (Hereford).
The Rev Michael Calbridge, Priest-in-charge, Wellington, Christ Church; to be Vicar Wellington, Christ Church (Richfield).
The Rev David Cawley, Vicar, St

Mary de Castro, Leicester, Chaplain of Trinity Hospital, Leicester, and the Sovereign's Preacher at The Newark; to be also Minister w special pastoral responsibility for St Nicholas, and Honorary Team Vicar within the Holy Spirit Team Ministry, Leicester.
The Rev Joy Chapman, Team Vicar, Bicknell and Bagnall (Richfield); to be Chaplain to the Leicestershire Organisation for the Relief of Suffering (LOROS).
The Rev Nicholas Flint, Team Vicar, fields; to be Priest-in-charge, Rusey w Colgate (Chichester).
The Rev Jonathan Greener, Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Truro; to be Vicar, Brighton Preston, The Good Shepherd (Chichester).
The Rev John Harris, Vicar, Moldgreen; to be Priest-in-charge, South Ossett Christ Church (Wakefield).
The Rev Paul Hartley, Team Vicar, Gulesley w Exhott (Bradford); to be Rector, St Cuthbert, Ackworth (Wakefield).

The Rev Charles Lawrence, formerly Vicar, Saddleworth (Manchester); to be Vicar, Ellingham w Little Bookham (Guildford).
The Rev John Lawson, Team Vicar, The Dovehouse, Team Ministry (Wakefield); to continue as Team Vicar for a further two years.
The Rev Christopher Martin, Priest-in-charge, St Ippolytus; to be the Incumbent, St Ippolytus (St Albans).
The Rev Peter Mickelthwait, Assistant Curate, Wisley w Pyrlford; to be Rector, Windesham (Guildford).
The Rev David Newman, Vicar, Oakbrook and Borrowash (Derby); to be Team Rector, Loughborough Emmanuel and Nantpanan St Mary (Leicester).
The Rev Clive Potter, Assistant Curate, Church, Epsom; to be Team Vicar, Westborough (Guildford).
The Rev Geoffrey Read, Team Vicar, Westborough; to be Team Rector, Westborough, (Guildford).

The Rev Preb. Jeanne Summers, Priest-in-charge, St Mary, Marden w Amberley, and Westiston; also Priest-in-charge, St Andrew, Moreton-on-Lugg, continuing as Rural Dean of Hereford.
The Rev John Theobald, Chaplain of HM Prison, Armlay; to be Vicar, Leeds St Cyprian, Harehills (Ripon).
The Rev Nicholas Varon, Curate, Pontypridd (Llandaff); to be Priest-in-charge, St Nicholas, Sutton St Nicholas; St Michael, Sutton St Michael; St Peter, Withington; St Bartholomew, Westside (Hereford).
Resignations and retirements
The Rev Margaret Duxbury, Curate, Dacre w Harwidd and Darley w Thornthwaite (Ripon); retired December 31.
The Rev Ronald Howell, Rector, Thornhill St Michael & All Angels and Whitley Lower SS Mary & Michael (Wakefield); resigned December 31.
The Rev Frank Snow, Rector, Great Smeaton w Appleton Wiske and Birkby and Danby Wiske w Hutton Bonville (Ripon); to retire January 16.

At 90 minutes past 9 o'clock last night, in Rutland-house, Arlington-street, died, his Royal Highness FREDERICK, Duke of YORK and ALBANY, in the 64th year of his age. The painful indisposition of his Royal Highness has long been a subject of noisette and regret. It had for some time assumed a form which indicated a general breaking up of the constitution and which, in their despair of a complete recovery, left the medical attendants no hope but that of administering some powerful medicine to suffering in their nature too powerful for human skill to contend with. The deceased Prince, whose kindness of disposition rendered him popular in his lifetime, and will make his death generally lamented, had been what is termed a free liver. He liked wine — he loved play — and he had other tastes — unfortunately too often indulged in by men of all professions, but of which the cultivation is perhaps less excusable in many other walks of life than in those of the Prince, beset from infancy by the seductions of a Court — and the soldier, to whom, if his mind be not of more than ordinary intellectual and moral force, habits of licentiousness come fatally recommended by the ease of his reckless dissipation. We are not now excusing the miserable morality which interposed the prejudices and conventions of artificial life, between that to

ON THIS DAY

January 6, 1827



A second leader paid glowing tribute to the Duke — he was "cheerful, affable, open, brave — humane and compassionate to all..." These were generous sentiments from the paper whose proprietor, John Walters, had been imprisoned in 1789 for libelling the Duke which Providence has affixed the seal of actual guilt with all its dreadful consequences, and the grave reprehension which, in the eye of truth, of virtue, and religion, belongs to it; but, in judging the individual man, it is neither unpardonable nor unreasonable to allow for the temptations which befall him, and the greater or less facility of resistance which his place in the world affords. Besides the Duke of YORK's attachment to the excesses of the table; to gambling on the turf and elsewhere; and to another class of immoral indulgences, which, without being named, may be sufficiently comprehended: his Royal Highness was weakly — we are bound to add culpably,

as well as most unhappily, insensible to the real use of money. Notwithstanding the vast income afforded him by the liberality of the British nation, he contracted enormous debts, without the means, or even the thought, as it would appear, of discharging them; and involved in distress many hundreds of families. This is, unhappily, regarded as one among the most venial offences of the aristocracy of England. It is positive injustice: it may not be deliberate, but it is intrinsic robbery. It finds men careless, — it makes them callous, — it ends by plunging debtor and creditor into the same gulf of despair. It is notorious how much the rapidity of the Duke of YORK's disorder was accelerated by the growing pressure of his pecuniary difficulties. So severe, so degrading were the forms in which those embarrassments assailed the Prince, that neither a house, nor furniture, nor horse, nor tangible property of any kind, remained in his possession. Yet, thus destitute and fallen — owing an enormous debt, of which he could not pay a shilling — with the restless grasp of death about him, through what Demon was it, that this ill-advised member of the Royal Family commenced the building of a Palace, the construction, decoration and furnishing of which, were not to be completed for less than half a million sterling!

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Another year, another landmark for Tim Henman
PAGE 25



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Luton Town or Bolton Wanderers v Chesterfield or Bristol City
Birmingham City v Shrewsbury or Stockport County
QPR or Huddersfield Town v Barnsley or Oldham Athletic
Preston v Reading
Cardiff United or Tottenham Hotspur v Sheffield Wednesday
Everton v Bradford City
Huddersfield Town or York City v Middlesbrough
Clifton v Liverpool
Gillingham or Derby County v Macclesfield or Aston Villa
Leicester City or Southend United v Norwich City
Accrington v Sunderland or Crystal Palace or Leeds United
Brentford or Manchester City v Woking or Oxford United
Macclesfield United v Crewe Alexandra or Wrexham

To be played on January 25 and 26

BBC earns little credit from inflexible friends

Bad, better, best would be the alliterative way to describe the BBC's progress through the third round of the FA Cup. Awful, so-so and as good as a slightly disappointing live encounter between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur would allow would be the honest way.

Let us deal with the worst first. *Football Focus* was so bad that, if the orange ball that we later saw bouncing round the Racecourse Ground turned out to be the producer's head, I would not be surprised. It was that awful.

Television is supposed to be the instant medium, delivering the news as it happens, if not before. So, how come a no doubt blameless Gary Lineker had to introduce special film reports about Woking and Hednesford and an interview

with Nigel Martyn, the Leeds United goalkeeper? Their matches were postponed at least the day before.

The inability of the *Football Focus* team to think on its feet, especially when it had been clear for days that most attempts at giant-killing would have to wait, was simply astonishing. Any newspaper journalist knows about having a perfectly good story "spiked" because it has been overtaken by events.

Different rules, though, apparently apply at *Football Focus*, where the running order appeared to have been written in stone some 48 hours earlier. "Hednesford's off, boss — shall we do something else?" Certainly not. "Coventry's off, too — do we still want John Sillett as studio guest?" Of course, we do.

Which is how we came to



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

spend Saturday lunchtime listening to the amiable Sillett pronounce on several games that would not take place for another ten days.

It is not as if there were not alternatives available. John Motson and John Champion were already in place at St Andrew's and the Racecourse Ground, respectively. Although Champion laboured valiantly with Brian Flynn, the manager of Wrexham, better use could have been made of the ever-reliable Motson. Then there was the flagship game

between Manchester United and Tottenham to look forward to. The montage of goals was terrific, but, on a day when upsets were clearly off the menu, more was needed.

Things improved modestly for *Match of the Day*: the *Road to Wembley*, but at least Des Lynam, Alan Hansen and Trevor Brooking provided an A-team line-up. The afternoon's results had ensured that it was never going to be the most exciting 75 minutes of football highlights, but the running order did not help.

Harry Redknapp, the manager of West Ham United, Lynam and Brooking were all agreed that what had taken place on the snow-covered Wrexham ground was not football. So why make it the first match, rather than Birmingham City's infinitely superior game against Stevenage Borough?

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, knew the answer. "The only reason you lads are here," he said, gesturing at the camera, "was the hope of a Stevenage victory." That had not happened, but Wrexham, at least, had managed a draw. So they went first.

Yesterday, however, proved an infinitely brighter affair, with Charlton Athletic against Newcastle United live on Sky followed, not an hour later, by the live game from Old

Trafford on BBC1. Technically, there is nothing to choose between the terrestrial network and its satellite rival, while, behind the microphones, Martin Tyler and Andy Gray, for Sky, are every bit as good as Barry Davies and Brooking.

In terms of presentation, though, the BBC remains streets ahead, thanks largely to the affable authority of Lynam but helped immensely by the forthright presence of Hansen and the increasingly eccentric Jimmy Hill. In contrast, all Richard Keys had for company at The Valley was Lennie Lawrence and the Cup itself. Next season, of course, ITV becomes the terrestrial broadcaster for the FA Cup. Given the problems that ITV had with presentation during Euro 96, Lynam and Co are going to be much missed.

Torrance toppled by high-flying Hoch

SAM TORRANCE, of Scotland, was beaten 4 and 2 by Scott Hoch, of the United States, in the semi-final of the \$2.4 million Andersen Consulting world championship of golf in Scottsdale, Arizona. Hoch produced a superb performance, reeling off seven birdies and an eagle as he took control over the back nine. He said: "It doesn't get a whole lot better. I only had one poor shot today." Torrance, who only trailed by one hole after the front nine, said: "Scott played great. It was like running into a brick wall. On the front nine we knocked the flag out every hole. The back nine was frustrating."

Hoch's victory set up a 36-hole final against Greg Norman after the Australian cruised to a 5 and 4 victory over Hisayuki Sasaki, of Japan, in the other semi-final. Norman, the world No 1, said: "It was a good, solid performance. I clocked a few drives, but all in all I was hitting the ball crisply."

Burnett eases through

DARTS: Richie Burnett, of Wales, champion in 1995 and runner-up last year, cruised through his opening game in the Embassy world championship at Frinton Green, Surrey, yesterday. Burnett beat Peter Hinkley, of Australia, by 3-1 and then spoke of his relief at getting through safely. "The first round, because it is so short, is the most difficult match," he said. Burnett, 29, from Cwmbran, Glamorgan, is only seeded fourth because of lack of play in recent months.

Soma Singh injured

HOCKEY: Soma Singh, the Southgate and Great Britain defender, was rushed to hospital with a suspected broken ankle ten minutes into the first game of the Los Reyes international tournament in Barcelona on Saturday. Twice in the lead after goals from Duncan Wood, Southgate were forced to settle for a 2-2 draw against Polo Barcelona. Reading were in convincing form as they crushed FC Barcelona 10-1, Mark Pearn scoring a first-half hat-trick.

Cobras make their point

ICE HOCKEY: Newcastle Cobras must be grateful to the Superleague for deciding that a team losing in over-time will keep one point (Norman de Mesquita writes). Their 6-5 defeat to Basingstoke Bison on Saturday was their fourth over-time defeat. Trevor Redmond scoring the all-important goal in the fourth minute of the extra period. The Nottingham Panthers easily beat Manchester Storm 8-1 while Cardiff Devils outplayed Ayr Scottish Eagles 6-3.

Motorcyclist killed

MOTOR RALLYING: Jean-Pierre Leduc, the French motorcyclist, was killed yesterday in a fall during the second stage of the Dakar Rally, according to race organisers. The accident happened about halfway through the 594-kilometre stage from Tambacounda, in Senegal, to Kayes, in Mali. A fellow competitor alerted medical personnel to the accident by setting off warning flares, and a helicopter arrived on the scene within minutes, but Leduc, 45, was pronounced dead.

Pierce recovering well

TENNIS: Mary Pierce, the former Australian Open champion, upset Irina Spîrlea, of Romania, the No 5 seed, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the first round of the Sydney International yesterday. Pierce, 21, a French-Canadian, who is regaining her form after a shoulder injury, was match-rusty after a three-month lay-off, but showed some of the power that won her the Open in 1995. Her next opponent will be Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia.

Funaki in high spirits

SKI JUMPING: Kazuyoshi Funaki, of Japan, won the World Cup event, the third leg of the prestigious four-hill tournament, at Innsbruck on Saturday. Funaki edged out Primož Peterka, who took the lead in the four-hill overall standings. Funaki, 21, posted jumps of 116 and 113.5 metres on the hill which hosted the 1976 Olympic Games, to earn 254.1 points. The victory was Funaki's second on the hill and the sixth by a Japanese jumper in the four-hill tournament.

Sales lifts England

CRICKET: A determined 62 from David Sales, of Northamptonshire, lifted England to a 26-run victory over Pakistan in the opening Under-19 one-day international in Gujranwala on Saturday. The tourists batted first on a slow wicket and only Sales achieved any real fluency in his strokeplay. But Pakistan then slipped to 134 all out after failing to recover from an impressive opening burst from Surrey's Alex Tudor, who took three for 13.

Single-minded success

TENNIS: Todd Woodbridge, the doubles specialist, won only the second singles title of his career with a 6-2, 6-1 defeat of Scott Draper, his fellow Australian, in the final of the Australian hard-court championships in Adelaide yesterday. Woodbridge, who with Mark Woodforde has formed the best doubles combination in the world, needed only 58 minutes to overwhelm Draper. "It's great to get my own name up in lights," Woodbridge said.

ATHLETICS

Livingston banks on profitable return

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AS A debt collector, Jason Livingston cannot be used to hearing people complain when extra cash is offered their way. But then Colin Jackson has never had the debt collectors round.

Livingston defeated Jackson twice over 60 metres on Saturday in the Birmingham Games, his first indoor competition in distinguished company since serving a four-year ban for failing a drugs test. Indoor sprinting was how Livingston made his name in 1992, winning the European title and running 6.51sec to hold a share in the continental record.

Later that year he was sent home from the Olympic Games in Barcelona. Thus "Baby Ben" met the same fate as Ben Johnson, his hero. Livingston, with the same squat, muscular appearance, buller start and shaven head as Johnson, protested his innocence but the ban stood and, instead of becoming a wealthy young athlete, entered a period of financial hardship.

A father of two, now 25, he is trying to rebuild his form in athletics while holding down a nine-to-five job. "I would rather be training full-time," Livingston said. But these are "exciting times", as he put it: he was referring to the introduction this year of prize-money for world championships, indoors and out.

While outdoor world champions will receive \$60,000 (about £35,000), and indoor winners \$50,000, there will be money for at least the first three and Livingston, judging by his showing on Saturday, cannot be discounted from being on the cheque list when the prize-money is handed out at the world indoor championships in Paris in March.

Jackson, if he can repeat at world level his 1994 European double on the same track, when he won the 60 metres and 60 metres hurdles, would earn \$100,000, but feels uncomfortable at the thought. Although many top athletes,

Michael Johnson among them, and their agents argued long and loud for prize-money at world championships, Jackson feels that money obscures the view of the medal.

"It is a shame they have prize-money for the championships," Jackson said. "We have the grand prix circuit for that. People should get ready for championships to win, not to finish as high up as you can so you can get the money. We have a lot of money given out in the grand prix final and a lot given out in the Golden Four. It takes away from the importance of winning the medal."

Jackson was unfazed by his double defeat, saying that, after five weeks training in Australia, he had not adjusted to the cold; he had not raced since August, nor was the occasion sufficiently important to fire him up. After two lean years, Jackson, still the sprint hurdles world record-holder indoors and out, is returning to a full indoor season.

Perhaps a busy indoor programme will help to resurrect the old Jackson. He will be 30 next month, still prime age for sprint hurdling. Admitting to failing power and rhythm last year, when he was fourth in the Olympics, Jackson said: "I have to learn to sprint again." In their first race, Livingston recorded 6.69sec, Jackson 6.70sec. In the second, Livingston ran 6.66sec, Jackson 6.72sec. Livingston was not far off the 6.61sec he recorded in the corresponding meeting of 1992. If he can find another 0.10sec by February, as he did then, it should ensure his place in the Great Britain team for Paris.

However, competition for the two places is fierce. Apart from Jackson and Livingston, there is Darren Braithwaite, the runner-up in the last world indoor championships, in Barcelona two years ago, Jason Gardener, the world No 6 last year, and Ian Mackie, perhaps. Mackie will have a



Livingston, left, defeated Jackson twice over 60 metres in the Birmingham Games at the National Indoor Arena.

better idea whether he intends to aim for Paris after the Scottish championships on January 19.

Asked how it felt to be back, Livingston sounded less than enthusiastic. "It felt OK," he said. "There were no butterflies in my stomach but I know there are bigger tests to come."

Radcliffe left out of the running

PAULA RADCLIFFE, the British 5,000 metres record-holder, suffered her second successive World Cross Challenge series defeat on Saturday when she finished fourth in the Coes-Cola International cross country in Belfast (David Powell writes).

Radcliffe, trying to race herself back to fitness after a knee injury, and with the world championships in Turin in March as her target, faced an even tougher field in Belfast than she had in Co Durham the previous weekend. She has come

straight back in at the deep end, taking on Gete Wami, the world champion from Ethiopia, at both venues.

In Durham, Radcliffe was third behind Wami and Elena Fidatov, from Romania. However, the Belfast organisers also brought in Julia Negura, the European champion, from Romania, and the Bedford athlete finished well behind all three of them.

The race was won by Fidatov, who had finished behind Radcliffe in the Olympic 5,000 metres final in Atlanta. Fidatov recorded

15min 39sec, outstripping Negura, with Wami three seconds behind the winner. There was a long gap to Radcliffe, but encouraging for Britain was the continued good form of Lucy Elliott who, having been fourth in Durham, was fifth in Belfast.

Rob Denmark, who finished seventh, was the leading British finisher in the men's race. Jon Brown, after beating Daniel Komen, the 3,000 metres world record-holder, in Durham, did not run in Belfast. Milon Wolde, from Ethiopia, was a narrow winner.

life for a second offence but Livingston has returned several clean samples since his first suspension. "In the past five weeks I have been tested twice," he said.

As the crisis within the British Athletic Federation (BAF) deepens, Malcolm Arnold, the head coach, said that a full squad would be sent to Paris and that athletes would not be left at home as a money-saving exercise, as happened with the European cross-country championships. After it was revealed on Thursday that Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman since 1985, had left, it emerged at the weekend that Stephen Gledhill, the federation's financial director, has handed in his notice.

Gledhill's departure comes within 12 months of John Lister standing down as treasurer after ten years in the post. Staff at the BAF are living on their nerves over prospective redundancies and morale within the federation has never been lower.

BASKETBALL

McGee ends Leicester's pain

By NICHOLAS HARLING

JUST six weeks after breaking two bones in his back, Leon McGee confirmed his rapid rehabilitation on Saturday by hitting Crystal Palace for 30 points to end a bleak period for Leicester Riders.

It was hardly a coincidence that within a game of the 6ft 3in playmaker from Barle Creek, Michigan hurting himself at Birmingham, Leicester embarked on a sequence of seven successive defeats. With Mo Ballard dislocating his jaw in the same match and subsequent injuries afflicting Gene Waldron and Justin Phoenix, the Leicester coach, Bob Donewald, did well to field a squad. "Take four starters out of any team in this league and see how well they do," he said after Leicester's 91-81 win in the National Sports Centre had put them within sight again of a place in the Budweiser League playoffs.

"Leon's still a bit sore but he is obviously back to his old self," Donewald enthused.

"But it has been a bit of a nightmare. With everyone but Waldron back I was hopeful but we have only had two practices as a unit and I didn't really think we could sustain a road game like this."

It certainly looked that way in the first quarter when a McGee three-pointer was the only interruption to a Palace run of 13 points, inspired by Paul Grant, that swept his

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team into a narrow interval lead of 44-38. Soon after the resumption, Leicester, helped by Phoenix and Nate Reinking (who each finished with 15 points) and Andy Betts (14) and lamentable Palace shooting — produced their own surge of 19-4. From that, there was no way back for Palace whose coach, Alton Byrd, commented briefly: "We had a period of time where offensively we couldn't execute." About

the only bright spot for Byrd was the form of Solomon Ayinla, whose 25 points kept Palace in the game.

Elsewhere, Paul Depisch hit five three-pointers among his 21 points to help the champions, London Towers, win 101-88 at Newcastle Eagles. Only when the game was won and lost did Michael Newman manage to penetrate at close quarters for the Eagles. Emerging from a first half that yielded only four points, the American centre eventually finished as the game's top-scorer with 23.

Tim Lascelles also rattled up 21 points but his tally came from seven three-pointers for Derby Storm, 109-92 winners over Thames Valley Tigers. Worthing Bears looked like becoming the first team this season to lose to Hemel Hempstead Royals when they trailed 14-2 but the American, James Hamilton, returning after spraining his left ankle, sank 44 points in Worthing's 110-84 victory — the best individual tally of the season.

CYCLING

Clarke makes most of warm-up chance

By PETER BRYAN

WHILE most of the country's leading cycle-cross riders chose to avoid a clash with their likely rivals in the British championship, which will be held at Sutton Coldfield next Sunday, Nick Craig, the title-holder, was nursing a severe cold at his home in Stockport that has kept him out of competition for the past fortnight.

"I had planned to ride two races this weekend in preparation for the national," he said yesterday, "but the cold has persisted and now gone to my chest. It's not looking good at all as far as I'm concerned for the championship race."

That may turn out to be good news for Barrie Clarke, the rider who is in the best form at present and who finished second to Craig in an exciting finish to last year's championship. He is thirsting for revenge.

Clarke and Richard Allaway, spiritedly gearing up

their training before their encounter in the national championship, agreed to make yesterday's Crabwood 16 miles event a handicap race "to make it more interesting" and started 2½ minutes after the main field of 60.

The Southampton circuit was rock hard and the temperature resolutely refused to move above freezing but neither appeared to bother Clarke, who caught the leaders at the end of the sixth lap and powered into the lead and won with 70 seconds to spare from Welsh-born Jamie Norfolk.

Rob Hurd, an early leader, managed a place on the podium by crossing the line third, 1min 21sec down on Clarke. "It was just what I wanted today," Clarke said, after his victory. "A good work-out and an untrodden run before the championship."

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ICE SKATING

Gooch slips into winning role

By JOHN HENNESSY

THE British short-track championships produced the expected results at Guildford on Saturday yet still managed to produce some exciting climax. Nicky Gooch held off a spirited challenge by Matt Jasper to win the 3,000 metres by 0.15sec, and with it the title for the fourth time.

In the women's 500 metres Debbie Palmer, still recovering from a leg injury, was outpaced by a popular local 16-year-old junior, Sarah Lindsay. Palmer had, however, already built up sufficient advantage to win the women's championship for the seventh successive time, like Jasper, by two points.

Apart from Jasper, of Nottingham, all belonged to the Aldwyke Club, at Guildford. The men's 3,000 metres was a tactical race, as it often is in the athletics track. For the most part, there was little change of pace or position, apart from one early sprint by Gooch to break up the steady rhythm.

The four skaters in the final had peeled off 23 of the 27 laps before the race sprang to life. The tactics seemed to favour Jasper, whose strength lies in the shorter distances, but, try as he might, he could not nullify the advantage that Gooch had stolen.

There was about two metres between them at the finish. "It was tough," Gooch said, "but I always felt I had it under control."

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control. It did not look quite that way. Earlier Gooch and Jasper had finished first and second respectively in the 1,500 metres and also the 500 metres, for all Gooch's preference for the longer distances.

Then Gooch threw the title wide open by a fall in the 1,000 metres with three laps to go. He was left to trundle home in fourth place, bringing him level with Jasper on 11 points

with only that 3,000 metres left. Gooch, apparently, had lost his edge completely, without any contact with other skaters, because of a loose nut in one boot.

The manuring of Lindsay is regarded by the National Ice Skating Association as an important development. Not only does her arrival provide Palmer with the spur of competition she needs — "it's been difficult without it," she admits — but at a time when the sport is a bid for all the television exposure it can get, Lindsay, who is nothing if not photogenic, is an obvious draw card, and more of the same type of national exposure can be expected.

Gooch yesterday also won the British outdoor championship on Whitlesey Wash, Peterborough, covering the 1½ mile course in 4min 25sec to take the King Edward VII Cup. Jonathan Cave, of Newborough, was second and Rob Mitchell, from Peterborough, third.

TENNIS

Henman on course for a happy new year

By ALIX RAMSEY

TIM HENMAN achieved his first goal of the new year when he reached an ATP Tour final for the first time on Saturday, but he could not quite manage to go one better and win the event, succumbing 7-5, 6-7, 6-2 to Jim Courier in the final of the Qatar Open in Doha yesterday.

To put Henman's achievement into perspective, Courier, with four grand-slam singles titles to his name, represented Henman's first serious challenge of the week.

To set up the meeting with the former world No. 1, Henman had only to see off Tataru at Savoy, who may be Egypt's top player but hardly

against Arai, he showed that he had learnt from his mistakes and was ready to take his place against Courier.

"A lot of people will see it as the breaking of a jinx," Henman said. "Certainly I have learnt from the past and reaching my first final is the reward for that. My ambition at the start of this year was to reach a tour final and I'm delighted to have done that so quickly in the new year. I sensed it was a real opportunity against Arai and I am happy I took the chance."

Courier is a far tougher nut to crack, though. By the end of last year, he had dropped out of the top 25 for the first time in eight years and he is determined to force his way back up the ladder. Once Courier sets his mind to something, nothing will distract him. Not the most talkative of souls, he allows his racket and the occasional scowl to get his message across.

Yesterday he had to work to gain the advantage, trading breaks of service with Henman at the start of the first set before winning it 7-5. The two men had never met before in competition but they have practised together a few times and Courier knew what to expect. His plan was simple: whenever he saw Henman at the net, he aimed to drill the ball past him as hard and as fast as possible. Subtlety is not one of Courier's strong suits.

However, if there is one thing that has set Henman apart from his predecessors as the torch-bearer of British hopes, it is his will power. He



A rejuvenated Courier shows off the spoils of his victory over Henman in the final of the Qatar Open yesterday

may win, he may lose, but either way he is not fazed by the situation. "I try to be in control of my emotions on court because that's when I play at my best," he said. But after outwitting Courier in the second-set tie-break, which he won 7-5, Henman relaxed for a moment and that was all the American needed to take charge of the match.

No matter. Henman has taken a big step in the last seven days. His hopes for the

new year had been to reach that first final, work on his physical strength and improve his ranking. The latter is guaranteed — he will move up a few notches from his present position of 29 when the rankings are announced this morning. As for the rest, Henman is already ahead of schedule as he makes his way to Melbourne for the first grand-slam event of the year.

"On the positive side, I am playing better and better," he

said. "I've had a great week and it's given me lots of confidence for the Australian Open. The way I played instilled more belief that I can become a good player and if I can have good weeks on and off the court, there is no reason why I can't beat a couple of top players."

The coming 12 months will be a much sterner test of Henman's capabilities than the heady days of 1996. His opponents now know what

they are up against when they see his name on the draw-sheet and Henman must repeat his feats of last year and do better if he is to continue his rise up the rankings.

Like Courier, he is eager to move up, although he is too well-mannered to grunt and growl as he does it. Nevertheless, the determination is there and Henman's performance in Doha has provided an eloquent statement of intent for 1997.

MOTOR RACING

Williams says he will attend trial over Senna

By OLIVER HOLT

FRANK WILLIAMS last night spoke for the first time about the worries surrounding his impending trial for manslaughter after the death of Ayrton Senna, the Formula One motor racing world champion, and his eagerness to appear in an Italian court in person to clear his name.

The Williams team owner revealed that he and the other two members of his team who had charges brought against them last month — Patrick Head, his technical director, and Adrian Newey, his chief designer — will waive their right not to attend the trial next month, and travel to Imola.

The trial is due to begin on February 20, at a small courtroom normally used for handing out speeding fines, more than 33 months after Senna's Williams-Renault crashed into a concrete wall at the Tamborello corner during the San Marino Grand Prix. The report into his death is thought to blame the accident on the failure of a weld on the car's steering column, a charge that Williams disputes.

"It is inevitable that I will go," Williams said at the announcement of a new sponsorship deal with the City firm, Henderson Investors, in London. "Why would I not go? I know one is not obliged to but I think it is correct that I should go to represent the company. It is my job. At least in the early stages, I expect that Patrick and Adrian will be there, too, but I think it could go on for quite some time."

"It has been hanging around for more than 30 months now so there is an element of relief that the thing is finally starting. It has been a worry but not really a strain. A death has to be investigated in Italy and nothing is above the

law, and I am participating very willingly in the investigation. There is, though, a great deal about the report and the way it occurred that bothers us."

Williams is also facing the possibility of a court case to resolve a contractual dispute with Newey, who is being wooed by McLaren. He admitted that the team's off-track troubles would make it more difficult for it to maintain its recent dominance in the sport in the coming season. If the verdict went the wrong way, he said, it would have a



Williams: worries

negative effect on the team. "It is a logical thing to say that a negative outcome would not be good for the team," he said. "It would be about reputation more than anything else. The wrong verdict would be a stigma over the company. While motor racing people may consider it a racing accident no matter what the verdict, 95 per cent of people outside motor racing would look at it and think 'that's bad'. It all just makes the challenge for the team all the greater next season."

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HOCKEY

Late surge earns title for Scottish champions

By SYDNEY FRISKEN

MURRAY International Metals (MIM), the Scottish champions, reaffirmed their indoor skills by winning the DITZ Midlands international tournament at Kidderminster yesterday. They beat Canberra, the Australian side, 8-6 in the final.

Most of the drama was packed into the second half, with MIM gaining the upper hand from a profusion of corners. In a tight finish they scored twice to frustrate Canberra who had levelled the score at 6-6 with four minutes left.

MIM, from Edinburgh, scraped through their semi-final against Old Loughtonians, the English champions, 4-3. Their 3-1 lead was cancelled out by goals from corners by Thompson and Lee, but within a minute Chowdhury won the match for MIM from open play.

In the other semi-final, Canberra had lived dangerously against Victoria and came back from 3-0 down to win 8-6 with late goals by Barrett and McLennan. Canberra were superior individually and fitter, but the tactical plays of Vienna kept them in the game.

Canberra were in the same predicament against MIM, who quickly established a 3-0 lead. Canberra fought back gallantly to lead 4-3 after missing a penalty stroke, but found MIM a different proposition. In the battle for supremacy at corners, three were converted by MIM, with Smyth hitting the target twice, and he scored a third goal from open play.

For Canberra, Barrett and Bott scored from open play. They were disappointed, but from the way that they played, they dispelled any notion that Australians do not take indoor hockey seriously.

Old Loughtonians failed to salvage something from the tournament by losing 5-4 to Vienna, in the play-off for third place.

Hector revived Old Loughtonians' hopes by levelling the score at 4-4 from a corner, but Grassberger scored the winning goal in the dying seconds. He had scored twice earlier.

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SNOOKER: OPENING SESSION IN BIRMINGHAM FINAL UNDERLINES THAT O'SULLIVAN STILL HAS A BIG GAP TO BRIDGE

Hendry's excellence puts him in pole position

By PHIL YATES

SINCE 1990, when Stephen Hendry replaced Steve Davis as the world No. 1 and world champion, he has successfully identified, then repelled, any potential challengers to his continued supremacy. It was in that regard that Hendry embarked on a mission yesterday.

In establishing a 6-2 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the final of the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge at Birmingham, Hendry did considerably more than move to within three frames of the £30,000 first prize and the title of his career.

By winning the Asian Classic and beating Hendry 5-2 on the way to

success at the German Open last month, O'Sullivan has re-emerged as the most likely candidate to loosen Hendry's grip on the game's leading prizes.

"At this point I'd have to agree that Ronnie has taken over from John (Higgins) as my main threat," Hendry said, after defeating Alan McManus 6-5 in an enthralling, high-quality semi-final on Saturday evening.

"Ronnie's been in the wilderness for a couple of seasons but now he's back as a force again."

While that may indeed be true, Hendry's excellence during yesterday's first session underlined the fact that O'Sullivan still has a gap to

bridge, both in terms of application and consistency, before his claim to be the best can be ratified.

Hendry, who compiled three century breaks against McManus, carried his record total for the event to seven with runs of 110 in the opening frame, 129 in the third and 136, his third total clearance of the week, in the seventh.

The Scot, who has now constructed 367 century breaks in professional competition, also put together contributions of 44 and 97 but O'Sullivan's most painful reverse arrived in a frame during which Hendry failed to compile a break of any great significance.

In the fourth, Hendry led 5-0

when O'Sullivan replied with 46, only to miss a fairly simple brown to a middle pocket after being poised to fashion a decisive clearance. The mistake made the difference between 3-1 and 4-0 for Hendry, who subsequently potted brown and blue to forge on.

O'Sullivan was left with the unenviable task of requiring seven of the remaining nine frames in order to win the tournament for the second year in succession while Hendry looked an overwhelming favourite to secure a £100,000 donation for his charity, the National Playbus Association.

Ironically, Hendry's performance gave O'Sullivan's pre-match com-

ments a prophetic ring. "Stephen likes people coming along to push him. He enjoys the challenge of having someone snapping at his heels," he said, after a 6-1 semi-final dismissal of Peter Ebdon, who himself had high hopes of winning this event.

"Stephen realises that he's got to play well to beat me and knowing the way he ticks, that is precisely how he wants it."

"It's all a matter of motivation with him and in some respects what I've done over the past few months has done Stephen a favour. Mind you, if I play my best, I expect to beat him."

Frame scores: Hendry first 110-25, 59-31, 129-0, 10-107, 129-9, 136-0, 29-66

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

League newcomers end Elway's dream

By OLIVER HOLT

THE Jacksonville Jaguars, a team that played their first game just 16 months ago, produced one of the biggest upsets of recent National Football League (NFL) history on Sunday when they beat this season's best team, Denver Broncos, in Colorado, to move within one victory of an appearance in the Super Bowl.

The Jaguars fought back from a 12-0 first-quarter deficit to sneak past the Broncos 30-27, despite a desperate late drive from the Denver quarterback, John Elway, Jacksonville's win destroyed Elway's best chance of capping his decorated career with a win in the Super Bowl after coming close so many times before.

Denver finished the regular season with a record of 13 wins and three defeats while Jacksonville had to win their last five games just to grab the last wild-card play-off berth. But last week, they beat Buffalo Bills at Rich Stadium and on Saturday they went one better. Only the winner of last night's game between Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots stands between them and a trip to New Orleans on January 26.

The Jaguars, a collection of cast-offs, has-beens and poorly-raised NFL newcomers, were inspired by two touch-down passes from their quarterback, Mark Brunell, and the rushing of their running back, Natrone Means, who also scored a touch-down.

Jacksonville had extended their lead to 30-20 early in the fourth quarter when Elway, one of the greatest comeback

quarterbacks in the league, tried to rally the Broncos. He orchestrated a field-long drive to bring them to within three points of their opponents but the Jaguars kept possession late in the game to stifle any other opportunities. "We should have put them away in the first half," Elway said.

In Saturday's other game, San Francisco 49ers were soundly beaten by Green Bay Packers on a cold, wet and windy day at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin. Playing most of the game without their quarterback, Steve Young, who had badly bruised ribs, the 49ers had no answer to the passing of Brett Favre or the Green Bay running game.

Edgar Bennett and Desmond Howard returned a punt 71 yards as the Packers routed the 49ers 35-14. They have now won 17 consecutive games at Lambeau Field and 27 of their last 28 matches there. They will play the winner of last night's match between Carolina Panthers and the reigning champions, Dallas Cowboys, next weekend for a place in the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys have knocked the Packers out of the play-offs in each of the last three seasons but they have always had home-field advantage and have never had to venture into northern Wisconsin at the height of winter.

If they get past Carolina, that is what will face them and the Packers fans were baying for the chance of revenge in the later stages of Saturday's game.

SKIING: SWISS CLAIMS PLACE BESIDE STENMARK ON ROLL OF HONOUR

Von Gruenigen trounces opposition

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL Von Gruenigen, of Switzerland, surprised even himself yesterday when he won a men's World Cup giant slalom at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, by the unexpected margin of 1.64sec.

Von Gruenigen, the World Cup holder in the discipline, produced two near-perfect runs on the demanding Podkoren piste for a total time of 2min 13.42sec. It was his second triumph of the season.

His usual smooth and elegant style left Siegfried Voglreiter, of Austria, a distant second in 2min 15.06sec, with Kjell-Andre Amund, of Norway, third in 2min 15.78sec.

"I am amazed at how strong I was today," Von Gruenigen said. "I was not expecting to win by such a big margin. It is a very difficult and bumpy hill, but such conditions have always favoured me."

"One of my goals has always been to win on all the classic giant slalom slopes. Now I have completed this list with my victory here and at Alta Badia [in December]. If you look at the golden book of ski racing, then you can see that all the big names — such as [Ingemar] Stenmark — have won here in Kranjska

Gora. I am very proud to have my name on this list."

Last winter, Von Gruenigen, 27, who now has nine World Cup victories, won the classic giant slalom at Adelboden, Switzerland, on his way to his maiden World Cup title in the event.

"My goals are to defend my [World Cup] giant slalom title and take a medal at the world championships [in Sestriere, next month]," Von Gruenigen, who won giant slalom and slalom bronze medals at the world championships in Sierra Nevada last year, said.

Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, increased her lead in the overall World Cup competition by winning a women's slalom in Maribor, Slovenia, yesterday.

Wiberg, who was fastest on the first run, was not put off by deteriorating conditions and clocked the best aggregate time of 1min 44.55sec.

Urška Lovrovat delighted home crowds in Slovenia's second largest city with second place in 1min 45.32sec. Lara Magoni, of Italy, improved from seventh place after the first run to finish third with 1min 46.46sec, her best World Cup performance.



Von Gruenigen speeds to victory in Slovenia yesterday

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BOWLS: PRICE TRENDS WELL WORN TRAIL INTO LAST FOUR OF WELSH INDOOR TITLE

Trousdale's smash-and-grab tactics fail

THE IDEA that bowls is a gentle game was hit firmly on the head on Friday at Cardiff, when a jack was smashed in the quarter-finals of the CIS (Insurance) Welsh indoor singles championship (David Rhys Jones writes).

The culprit was Rodney Trousdale, a 29-year-old crown green bowler from Ellesmere Port, who has turned his attention to the flat green game during the winter months, when he travels

across Offa's Dyke several times a week to play at the Ffrith Stadium in Prestatyn.

The incident, which left two halves of the jack several feet apart on the rink, came towards the end of a match in which Trousdale was beaten, 21-11, by John Price, who is hoping to win the national title for the fifth time in succession and for the ninth time in 17 years.

John was getting on top, so I was forced into playing

attacking bowls," Trousdale said. "I was spot-on target but I didn't think I had put enough force behind it to do that sort of damage."

The little white ball was duly replaced and the end replayed in the same direction; but Trousdale's aggression failed to disturb Price, who went on to clinch his place in next week's semi-finals at Llanelli.

In the semi-finals, which will be televised by BBC-

4 Wales, Price will play Gareth Williams, 23, the Welsh junior captain and the Welsh Champions All-ride holder.

Williams broke a 15-15 deadlock to beat Earlwood's Keith Wilkins, 21-15, scoring a full house to win on the 25th end. Earlier, he had scored a four on the 8th, and a three on the 14th. Robert Weale, who plays for Radnorshire in Llandrindod Wells, meets John Downey, from Merthyr Tydfil, in the other semi-final.

SQUASH

Egyptians lead race for youth honours

By COLIN MCQUELLAN

IF THERE is to be a home success from the boys' events in the Commercial Union British junior open squash championships in Sheffield, it will have to come in the face of overwhelming opposition from Egypt.

Three Egyptians reached the under-19 semi-finals, along with John Russell, of Kent, while James Willstrop, from Yorkshire, also faces an Egyptian in the under-14 final today.

Shahid Zaman, from Pakistan, a nephew of the former world No. 2, Qamar Zaman, and Spain's Alberto Manso will play today's under-16 final after resisting fierce Egyptian semi-final challenges yesterday.

Willstrop, 13, defeated Moustafa Essam, from Egypt, 9-1, 9-4, 9-2 in just 24 minutes yesterday. Today he meets the smallest 13-year-old in the field, Yasser El Halaby, who ran with astonishing speed and durability for 37 minutes to defeat Clinton Gallard, of Kent, 9-2, 7-9, 9-0, 9-1.

The Egyptian development has been triggered by the recent success of Ahmed Barada at junior and senior levels. Government money and private sponsorship has poured into the game to finance a clutch of international tournaments and a host of youngsters fascinated by the idea of emulating Barada.

The girls' quarter-finals yesterday produced one under-14 victory for Egypt through the 9-5, 9-5, 10-8 win of Omneya Ali Abdel Kawi over Tina Rix, of Hampshire, and a near miss when Engy Kheirallah went down to Dominique Lloyd-Walter of Kent, 9-4, 4-9, 9-5, 9-7.

Russell, a thorn in Egyptian players' sides during the world junior championships in Cairo last year, started in Sheffield by defeating Mohammed Diaa, from Egypt. He then defeated Tino Casas, of Spain, 10-1 Tuominen, of Finland, and Yorkshire's Adam Stevenson to reach the under-19 semi-final last night against Amr Shabana, from Egypt.

Another Egyptian is certain to reach today's under-19 final when the top-seeded world junior champion, Admed Faizy, faces Karim El Mistakawi.

Four sent off as Juventus crash at Parma

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JUVENTUS, the European champions, are coming under increasing pressure in Serie A after defeat at Parma yesterday in an ill-tempered match. A goal from Mario Chiesa in the second minute settled a contest in which both sides had two players sent off.

Torricelli was dismissed for a second bookable offence shortly before half-time and the Parma forwards, Chiesa and Melli, and Zidane, of Juventus, all followed for rough play between the 64th and 66th minutes.

Vicenza took advantage of Parma's return to form by beating Bologna 2-0 to move into second place, three points behind Juventus. Marcelo Otero, their Uruguayan striker, scored both goals.

Sampdoria and Internazionale also won, Sampdoria beating Udinese 5-4 with the help of a hat-trick from Roberto Mancini while the

European results 28
Distinctive Duffy 29

Milan side got the better of Roma by a 3-1 margin.

In Spain, an 87th-minute goal by Juan Pizzi, a substitute, gave Barcelona a deserved 1-0 victory at Deportivo La Coruña, which lifted them a point clear of Real Madrid, who were due to play Athletic Bilbao last night.

The game marked the return to form of Ronaldo, the Brazilian striker, who has not scored for five games. Ronaldo hit the woodwork and had another effort cleared off the line for Bobby Robson's side.

Pizzi had been on the field only two minutes when his header was deflected past the goalkeeper.

There were two goals for another Brazilian, striker, Mario Jardel, in Porto's 3-1 home win over Guimaraes which extended the Portuguese champions' unbeaten run this season and maintained their five-point lead at the top.

Benfica, who beat Leica 5-1, are second and meet Porto next Saturday in one of Portugal's most eagerly-awaited games of the season.

FOOTBALL: NEWCASTLE PAY FOR GOALKEEPING ERROR IN FA CUP THIRD-ROUND TIE

Hislop hands replay to Charlton

Charlton Athletic 1
Newcastle United 1

By DAVID MILLER

THE oddest of FA Cup ties: joyous for Charlton Athletic, in holding lofty Newcastle United to a draw yesterday, frustrating for the visitors and unsatisfactory for any neutral. Charlton, midway down the Nationwide League first division, had the better of no more than an opening spell in either half, yet took Newcastle, who are still searching for a touch that seems lost, to a second meeting, tomorrow week, after two clumsy goals — the first poorly struck and the second poorly saved — and after two clear penalties had been inexplicably denied by the referee.

The detail will not dilute the satisfaction, on a chilly afternoon, for Charlton spectators anxious to revive the Cup runs that first awakened my own interest just after the Second World War: defeat at Wembley at the hands of the inimitable Doherty and Carter, then victory over Burnley. The Valley was throbbing again, though nowadays a full house means 15,000 rather than the 80,000 that was possible in my youth.

Sam Bartram, hero of those days, would have envied the save by Andy Petterson, an Australian goalkeeper of modest experience, that prevented Beardsley from sealing victory for Newcastle with 17 minutes remaining. Breaking clear on the right of a Charlton defence caught pressing forward in search of an equaliser, Beardsley let rip a fearsome shot from the edge of the penalty area which Petterson, with fine judgment, pulled out of the air high to his right.

Six minutes later, Mark Kinsella scored the equalising goal that rewarded Charlton more for effort than talent. Although they had attacked Newcastle's suspect defence regularly, they had penetrated as far as Hislop only occasionally. When Kinsella now tested him severely for the only time in the match, Hislop was found wanting.

There had seemed no danger. Charlton were working a tight move out on the right touchline, seemingly hemmed in by Newcastle markers, when the ball was slipped left to Kinsella. He benefited from Lee's vain interception and,



Kinsella holds off Ferdinand's challenge to score Charlton Athletic's late equaliser at The Valley yesterday

with no warning, he made five yards and let fly from way out. Hislop saw the shot all the way, got his hands to the ball, yet allowed it to slip through his grasp. "The goalkeeper should have had it," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "I'm sure he will be disappointed."

Unless something goes seriously awry at St James' Park, Newcastle should reach the fourth round and a home tie against Nottingham Forest, but this often ragged match confirmed that their decline in the FA Cup Premier League is identifiable roots, most notably the lack of intelligent football from the back.

Newcastle's dominance of much of the match was dependent on the evergreen skills,

and the experience, of the mercurial Beardsley in central midfield, tucked in behind Shearer and Ferdinand, and upon the first-half dynamism of Lee, returning to his former home ground. The goal that Lee scored after 32 minutes, however, could only be the goal of the month, a bizarre tale of two mis-hits.

A long cross from the wing was headed down by a straining Shearer, and at the first attempt Lee missed the ball completely. Chapple, arriving late, also failed to connect with a sliding challenge, and at the second attempt, Lee was able to beat Petterson with a shot that came unintentionally off the outside of the foot.

The first, and more obvious,

of the disputable penalty verdicts came, significantly for Charlton, two minutes before they went one down. On the half-hour, Robson, a constant thorn in Newcastle's side, probed down the left wing.

Whyte crossed, Newcastle hesitated and, in a scramble on the far side of the penalty area, Newton was blatantly pulled off the ball by the shoulder by Beardsley. The referee was looking straight at the incident from only a few yards, but astonishingly saw nothing amiss.

Alan Curishley, the Charlton manager, questioned Mr Allison about his decision at half-time, but his words with his players were able to have greater effect. For Charlton now pushed forward with

intent. If mainly without effect. They were fortunate to be doing so only one goal behind. Lee having struck a post with almost the last kick of the first half.

Now came Petterson's memorable save and Kinsella's equaliser. In the remaining ten minutes, Newcastle might have snatched victory. Shearer clearly had his foot taken when Petterson dived at a loose ball which he failed to reach, while Clark was only denied by a timely tackle from Rufus.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-3-3): A Petterson — A Barnes, R Rufus, P Chapple, P Shearer, M Robson, M Kinsella, J O'Connell (sub: K Jones, 80min) — S Newton, C Leamon, D Whyte. NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): S Hislop — S Walters, D Frisco, J Albert, J Beardsley — I Clark, D Beatty, R Lee — P Beardsley, A Shearer, I Ferdinand. Referee: D Allison.

Culverhouse's rapid red card sinks Swindon

Everton 3
Swindon Town 0

By PETER BALL

FOOTBALL matches are meant to last 90 minutes. Everton's FA Cup third round tie with Swindon lasted 52 seconds as a competitive game, the time it took Ian Culverhouse to set a new and unwanted record as the quickest ever dismissal in FA Cup history.

By the finish, Swindon, with Elkins also sent off for a second bookable offence, were down to nine men but the damage had been done much earlier. In Everton's first attack, Culverhouse was adjudged to have handled as he flung himself to block Andrei Kanchelskii's shot on the goal line. His protests that the ball had hit his chest were unavailing. Neale Barry produced the red card and Kanchelskii hit home the penalty, leaving Swindon a goal down and facing the remaining 39 minutes with ten men.

"My player is adamant he didn't handle, and if that's the case the referee's ruined a perfectly good game," Steve McMahon, the Swindon manager, said. "The game is over as a contest because it's not only given a goal away but we're down to ten men."

"It's such a big anti-climax. We had prepared so well and our expectations were so high. We thought we had a heck of a chance. Everton have been going through a tricky period and if ever there was a right time to catch them, this was it. — but not with ten men."

The gaps in the stands revealed the depths of uncertainty on Merseyside, and Everton's unbalanced team, the result of a rash of injuries and suspensions, left them looking vulnerable. But if anything was geared to settle their nerves, after two successive home defeats, it was an early goal. Their cares fell away.

Yet Swindon took some credit for their immediate reaction, even if by the end their spirit had declined. Initially, their response to losing one of their three central defenders was to play with two, keeping the balance of the team elsewhere. It was a high

risk policy and at times they were in danger of being overrun. They escaped that but, sadly, fortune did not favour the brave. Southall and the woodwork denying them reward for some brave attacking.

Instead an error by Walters, under-hitting a back-pass which presented Nick Barmby with the second goal after 18 minutes, was where the match really ended as a contest.

Yet in between the opening two goals, only Southall's brilliant save kept out Horlock's header, and after the second Swindon came even closer. Walters received the ball from Allison, spotted Southall off his line, but was frustrated as his beautifully judged chip came back off the bar, a poor reward for a piece of audacious skill.

It was not to be Walters' day on his return to Merseyside. Before the interval the former



Ferguson: third goal

Liverpool player had pulled up limping after bursting past Barrett, and his contribution had ended by half-time.

Swindon reshuffled again, but before their new formation, reverting to three at the back, could prove effective Ferguson added Everton's third with a leaping header, and all that remained was for Elkins to be sent off quarter of an hour before the end for pulling down Ferguson, having already been booked for a lunge at Kanchelskii.

EVERTON (3-1-4-2): E Barmby, D Walters, R Durn — P Redout, A Kanchelskii, N Barry, G Shear, G Speed — M Barmby, D Ferguson (sub: A Grant, 80min). SWINDON TOWN (5-5-2): F Duffy — M Seagraves, I Culverhouse, G Elkins — M Robinson, S Letch, L Collins (sub: W Williams, 50), D O'Leary, D Bridges (sub: A Alton, 77), J Mullin (sub: C Russell, 60). Referee: S Dunn.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

'I want to manage Liverpool'

John Barnes on following Roy Evans

'Everything I've done since leaving United has been to prove Alex Ferguson wrong'

Paul McGrath gets even

NEW LOOK

goal

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Perez performs and Sunderland breathe again

Arsenal 1
Sunderland 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

AT HALF-TIME, Arsenal's players told their manager, Arsène Wenger, that they should have had a penalty. Sunderland's players told their manager, Peter Reid, it was a case of unintentional handball. Neither manager had observed what happened when, close to the interval, Lionel Perez, Sunderland's French goalkeeper, blocked Harrison's header from Winterburn's in-swinging corner. Bould struck the ball back, and Melville's upstretched hand stopped it on the line.

"I've seen them given and I've seen them not given," Reid said, philosophically. Had Arsenal then scored from the spot, making the score 2-1, it is probable they would have gone on to win this FA Cup third round tie.

"We played well for one hour and in the last half-hour, we didn't have the resources to put Sunderland under pressure," Wenger said. It may be physical, or [we were] mentally tired."

Or it may just be that Arsenal still lack the midfield creator to do the unexpected. In the absence of David Platt, who hardly possesses such qualities, and the deferential Remi Garde, a Northern Ireland defender of modest capabilities, Morrow, was given a central midfield role beside

Patrick Vieira. Geese can turn into swans at times, but this was not one of those occasions.

Nor could Arsenal simply give the ball to Ian Wright and let him get on with it. Wright was suspended; as John Harrison will be for the replay at Roker Park.

Wenger admitted he was looking for a new player who might even be acquired in the next three days. There were rumours outside the stadium that it might be Marco Simone, the Milan striker forever in and out of their team. But what Arsenal clearly need is another Liam Brady, though a George Eastham would surely do.

Both managers praised the goalkeeping of Perez. "Magnifico, as they say in France," enthused Reid,

before conceding this was actually what they said in Liverpool. "Unorthodox, but a lot of continental keepers save with the feet as well as the hands."

Perez frequently did both. Solid is not quite the word for him. He will not catch if he can punch, will not hold if he can block. But he denied Arsenal time and again.

In the third minute, when Harrison served Bergkamp, Perez narrowly diverted the cross-shot. He blocked that header from Harrison. He blocked Merson's right-footed drive after Arsenal's outstanding player had cleverly gone by the ever-energetic Gray. In the first minute of the second half, he saved superbly from Merson, after Arsenal's most

fluent move of the game. Harrison, Merson, and Harrison again, were also subsequently denied.

Harrison had beaten Perez with a header off the bar from Merson's long cross after 11 minutes. Sunderland's unexpected equaliser came midway through the first half. Mullin adroitly controlled the ball with his back to goal, and laid it off for Gray to drive it in hard and low. The Sunderland players celebrated with one of those strange, sub-Masonic rituals.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): J. Smith — A Adams, S Bould, M Keown — R Parson, P Viera, S Morrow (sub: P Shaw, 77min), P Merson, N Winterburn — J Harrison, D Bergkamp. SUNDERLAND (5-5-2): P Perez — G Hall, A Melville, R Gray — D Kelly, P Brannan, S Agnew (sub: D Williams, 50), M Wright, D Bridges (sub: A Alton, 77), J Mullin (sub: C Russell, 60). Referee: S Dunn.

Plucky Cowan proves Horton's saving grace

Queens Park Rangers 1
Huddersfield Town 1

By WALTER GAMMIE

AS Tony Norman, the Huddersfield Town goalkeeper, lay wounded in the penalty area at Loftus Road on Saturday, hamstring ripped in bending for a back-pass, Brian Horton, the manager, and a clutch of players held an animated forum on the touchline.

With no reserve goalkeeper on the bench, bids were raining in to take over for the remaining hour of the all-Nationwide League first-division FA Cup third-round tie.

"I had three or four volunteers and I didn't fancy any of them," Horton said. "Bully [Darren Bullock] would normally do it but he'd got a sore hand." Finally, as Norman hobbled off, he peeled off his green jersey and handed it to Tom Cowan, the full back, who towers at 5ft 8in or 5ft 8½ in by his own estimation.

Fifty-eight minutes later, Cowan was on the verge of a final, tumultuous reception that would probably have seen him borne back to Yorkshire on the shoulders of the high-spirited travelling contingent, when he was beaten by Mark Hateley, with whom he had shared winning the Scottish League at Rangers in 1991.

Hateley's equaliser was rather better crafted than anything else Rangers produced

in what Stewart Houston, their manager, called a "get-it, give-it away" display. Hateley craned his neck to find his range and placed his 20-yard shot inside the post, past a scrambling Cowan, before wheeling away to salute the boy-boys who had greeted his arrival as substitute.

Earlier, Cowan had denied another of the Ibrox class of '91, stopping the ball dead with his feet as John Spencer headed down Impey's corner and then scooping away his follow-up shot. Spencer greeted his friend's intervention with a notably unsentimental commentary.

"Don't forget we scored a good goal of our own," Cowan said "although I would have saved it." Roberts was, in fact, given no chance as Crosby rammed in a ball pulled back by Edwards in the 64th minute.

Horton was certainly impressed by his choice of stand-in. "Scotland might have found a goalkeeper," he said. Negotiations for the role as start-up, fourth-choice keeper will have to be reopened at Leeds Road this week, however, as Cowan will miss the replay tomorrow week. He is suspended.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A Forster — M Graham, D Maddox, K Ready, R Brown — T Sinclair, G Pascoe, S Barker, M Bruce (sub: A Impey, 64min) — J Spencer, D Davies (sub: M Haskley, 78). HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): A Norman (sub: S Collins, 31) — T Henry (sub: P Reid, 40), S Davies, J Dixon, T Cowan — R Edwards, D Bullock, L Makiel, G Crosby — A Payton, I Lawson (sub: W Burdett, 87). Referee: E Lomas.

Cool Dreyer makes Wycombe wonder

Wycombe Wanderers 0
Bradford City 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHEN a player of Chris Waddle's poise, balance and intelligence is consistently reduced to performing little better than a novice ice-skater, slithering all over the place and frequently ending up on his backside, there has to be a problem with the pitch.

Those around him at Adams Park yesterday were similarly afflicted in a vigorously contested FA Cup third-round tie.

Waddle, the former England winger, eventually adjusted to the awkward surface by releasing the ball as soon as he had received it.

His Bradford City teammates adopted an equally simplistic approach and, from a paltry five shots, they terminated Wycombe Wanderers' interest in the competition. Not once in six attempts have Wycombe even scored in the third round, this morning, they will still be wondering how they did not buck the trend.

They dominated 80 per cent of the slip-and-slide proceedings yet squandered a series of chances that, in better conditions, they might have converted. Bradford, winners of the Cup in 1911, sat back, absorbed the best shots and struck twice in the first half to ease into round four.

Although the goals came from an unlikely source — John Dreyer, the much-travelled central defender — they were clinically taken in the manner of a born marksman. The first, in the 25th minute, was driven in from 12 yards after the ball had run free in the Wycombe area; the second, nine minutes later, was another left-footed shot, with maximum venom, from the same distance.

"I don't really know what I was doing up there," Dreyer said. "I just shut my eyes, hit them and hoped — that's what I always do. I've never scored in the FA Cup so it was a nice feeling."

Chris Kamara, the Bradford manager, welcomed the brief interlude from his side's struggle against relegation in the Nationwide League first division. "It was what I would term a professional performance," he said.

Wycombe, from the lower reaches of the second division, had initially skipped across the ice as if it did not exist. Forsyth, McGavin, Brown and Carroll went close but, from then on, lacked the necessary guile to disrupt Bradford's defensive discipline. Dreyer made them pay.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS (2-6-2): J Chaceworth — J Kavanagh, P McCarthy, M Forster — J Cousins, D Carroll, S McGavin, S Brown (sub: T Evans, 75min), M Boff — M Deacon, J Williams (sub: D Fanel, 62). BRADFORD CITY (5-5-2): M Schweitzer — A O'Brien, N Mahon, J Dreyer — R Lourd, L Duxbury, D Hamilton (sub: S Pardo, 78), C Waddle, W Webster — A Kwomaya (sub: T Wright, 78), C Shutt. Referee: U Perrie.

Greater morale gives Blackburn vital edge

Blackburn Rovers 1
Port Vale 0

By DAVID MADDOCK

HE HAS an impish grin and obviously an impish sense of humour to match. Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager of Blackburn Rovers, could not contain himself after an important, if less than convincing, FA Cup victory.

He is an understated man, but his jolly nature sneaked out for a moment when cornered on the subject of Sven Goran Eriksson and his delayed arrival at Ewood Park. "If things carry on like this, if we end up mid-table in the Premiership and in the FA Cup Final, then they'll have to ask him not to bother coming. They'll have to sack him," he joked.

The third-round victory over Port Vale suggested that Parkes may unwittingly have stumbled across the truth that the Ewood board dare not speak. He has turned Rovers around to such an extent that they could soon again be winning things. If so, then how will they cope with the embarrassment of relieving Parkes of his duties?

What this win illustrated was the influence of the caretaker on morale. Port Vale came with a game-plan, and almost carried it off. They hassled and harried, and closed down space to such an extent that Rovers were rashly

tempted, for the most part, into opting for a long-ball game instead of the short-passing, quick-breaking game their formation demanded.

Under such circumstances in recent seasons, Blackburn have lost to lower-division sides such as Stockport County and Ipswich Town. Not here. It was not pretty, but they grinded their teeth and braced out a victory as significant as it was unconvincing.

Parkes has succeeded not only in getting Rovers to play some decent, quick-witted football, but to get a group of bruised internationals once more to believe in themselves. It was not the football that did for Vale; but a mental toughness that was not there earlier in the season.

Vale had plenty of spirit, too, and theirs was no mean performance to hold the former champions to one goal. Games big on spirit, though, tend to be small on skill, and this was no exception, a flurry from Rovers in the first half, and a brief response from the visitors in the second was all the excitement on offer until Lars Bohinen, settled the match after 68 minutes with a precise curling shot from 20 yards.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-5-1): T Flower — J Kamara, H Berg, C Hendry, G Leart — K Galloway, S Greenwood (sub: J Marley, 80min), W McKinstry, L Bannister, J Wilcock (sub: G Fenton, 89) — C Euson. PORT VALE (4-5-1): P Maguire — N Abbott, D Glover (sub: I Fox, 85), G Griffin, D Sloane (sub: M Foley, 78), J McWhirry, A Porter, J Jamieson, A Tarkenton, S Gurney, T Naylor. Referee: J White.

Stevenage too sophisticated for their own good

Simon Barnes regrets the passing of FA Cup tradition as a 2-0 win takes Birmingham City into the fourth round at non-league side's expense

I really am getting old. This week I realised that I can remember Real Cup-Ties. I even met Chris Kelly, the "Leatherhead Lip", and Dickie Gay, who saved the penalty from Peter Lorimer for a non-league team called Wimbledon when it was a cup reporter. I thought that these men were part of a great tradition. I see now that they were the last of their line.

In those distant days, the top teams were summoned to strange battlefields for an examination not of their skills but of their hearts. Ideally, the pitch was precipitous and muddy, and thousands of people in holiday humour roared in from the pubs of the town to pack together more or less on the tarmac.

The home town played a game called Kick and Rush, which was a lot like football in some ways. Generally, they kicked the nearest

The big clubs used to face a test of heart

opponent and rushed off somewhere else. These were cheery, exhilarating occasions for all except the overdogs, an agreeable one might almost say an essential change in football's routine.

Then Watford and, later, Wimbledon introduced Kick and Rush to the top division, and it ceased to be a novelty. Meanwhile, televised football familiarised everyone with the rhythms of more complex versions of the game.

These days, non-league clubs take on the big clubs at their own game: that is to say, football. It is hardly surprising, then, that they nearly always lose.

Stevenage Borough are what is generally termed "a decent side". That is why they lost 2-0 to Birmingham City in the third round of the FA Cup on Saturday. If they had been a more indecent side, played a few booming balls over the top and generally gone at

their opponents like loonies, they might have stolen a win, but instead, they "played football". They did so very respectably, and therefore they lost. Very respectably. They were inclined to be rather euphoric afterwards. They had "lived with" the bigger side. But they came second.

The tie should have been played at Stevenage. One can hardly blame police for being overcautious in advising the switching of the tie, especially as 15,000 people turned up at St Andrew's, but it was a decision that made certain of the outcome. The tie had its moments, and both sides played all right, but the non-leaguers were subtly and consistently outplayed.

Stevenage came with two stars, a forward for whom they had refused £200,000 and a defender who plays in a bandanna. The



FA CUP

forward is Hayles, swift, skilful and built like a middleweight. The defender is (we really must have his full name) Efebor Sodje, the son of a Nigerian chief. He wears a bandanna because his mother told him always to keep his head covered when he played football.

Both these men were worth watching. Both played excellent football, but each must share the responsibility for defeat. Hayles might — might — have had a hat-trick in the first 20 minutes. He had one chance well blocked by a defender, then another when he

made clean contact with a volley and was a mile too high. Then, gorgeously, he sped through three defenders and shot goalwards, but Bennett, the Birmingham goalkeeper, took up a good position and made his block, and that turned the match.

Birmingham have built a reputation for impregnability this season, and they have done so with the help of a gentleman named Bruce, late of Manchester United. Hayles fancied his chances, but Bruce has grown old and grey disposing of strikers who fancy their chances.

You can say all you like about Bruce's lack of pace and ball skills, but after 20 minutes he had not so much subdued Hayles as learnt him. Bruce had got the hang of the way that Hayles's mind worked and his body moved. He was no longer acting preventatively, he

was playing pre-emptively. That, in a line, is where difference in class counts.

Perhaps if Stevenage had kicked the ball over Bruce's head and allowed Hayles to chase it, they might have done better. But, these days, sides like Stevenage cannot cast off their hard-won sophistication to order. You need Kick and Rush in the blood, and teams don't really have it any more.

Meanwhile, Sodje was doing a great job as a footballing centre half. The very term was a contradiction in the days of the Real Cup-Tie but, alas, he over-foolballed himself after 30 minutes. "I tried to be too clever and it didn't work out," he said honestly. Devlin nipped in and stole the ball from beneath Sodje's footballing feet, crossed for Francis to tap in, and that, really, was that.

Devlin and Bowen caused dismay for the rest of the afternoon.

Now the days of kick and rush are gone

and Devlin won a penalty, which he converted himself, after getting tangled up in Sodje's legs.

Stevenage should have gone into the Football League last season after winning the Vauxhall Conference, but they were turned down on a technicality. This season, they trail Kidderminster Harrier by a long way, but with many games in hand after their FA Cup adventures. They would be an asset to the league, and for precisely the same reason that they failed to be an asset to the Cup. They are a modern footballing side. The FA Cup is not a modern footballing concept.

Alas, STEVENAGE BOROUGH (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

BIRMINGHAM CITY (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

FOOTBALL: PORFIRIO RISES ABOVE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS TO SCORE GREAT LEVELLER AT THE RACECOURSE GROUND

Bleak midwinter makes Redknapp moan

Wrexham 1
West Ham United 1

By ROSE HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOW easily England's presumed footballing elite forget their roots. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, began and ended the FA Cup third-round game at the Racecourse Ground on Saturday in sour condemnation of the referee's decision to play the game on a snowbound pitch, rather than count his blessings that his side survived at Wrexham, where Arsenal had fallen five years earlier to the day.

Of course, the ground was difficult. But, once Mike Redd, the referee, had properly decided at dawn that it was not likely to endanger the limbs of the precious athletes, then the fact that the ground beneath their feet became, in the old cliché, "a great leveller", was

Southern outburst 29
Steve McManus 29

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built. Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "catastrophic" and insisting that it legislated against football as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of January, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the putative players of the FA Cup be expected to expect to play a cup tie on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Ham, not too sure of their footing on manicured turf, at which they have won just once in the past 12 games, were exposed not on the ground, where the snow did prevent a true run of the ball, but in the air.

After just six minutes, West Ham's timid attitude, their suspicion of all that lay around, cost them a goal. Martyn Chalk, just 5ft 6in and better balanced by far than his opponent, Julian Dicks, forced a corner. Gareth Owen took it on the left, Brian Carey, formerly of Manchester United reserves, was given the freedom to head the ball powerfully down, and then Bryan Hughes, just 20 and raised as an Evertonian, was equally unmarked to score the sniping header from six yards. Hughes, later to produce some neat skilful runs, has scored five goals in the Cup so far this season.

"The game should never have been played," Redknapp moaned. Previously manager of Bournemouth, who so enjoyed knocking Manchester United out of this competition, Redknapp wants only the best for his league of nations collection. However, when he added tartly that the referee could make such a decision because he did not have to play football on the pitch, Redknapp was out of order.

So were his players until, on the stroke of half-time, Hugo Porfirio produced a touch of Mediterranean class to equalise. Porfirio, who had never before seen snow, who questioned whether the English were quite mad to play in such seasonal weather, belied all that had gone before. He was positioned close to where Dicks, who claims to be one of the best dead-ball specialists in England, had woefully lofted three free kicks over the crossbar.

Porfirio has finer skill: after Andy Marriott, the Wrexham goalkeeper, had impudently run to the edge of his box, then missed the ball, the Portugal international had barely a second to assess the situation



Williamson, of West Ham, slides across the snow to dispossess Ward, the Wrexham midfielder player. Photograph: Mark Thompson / Allsport

and deliver his shot. He saw that Marriott was stranded. He saw Carey, 5ft 3in, was the last defender, and, scooping up the ball as if with a golfing wedge, he applied spin and swerve, so that the orange ball rose gracefully and then dropped over the head and shoulders of Carey neatly into the far corner of the goal.

What was this? It was a quality touch that defied everything, the excuses, the onrush of English blood, the conditions. The ground, re-

duced in capacity to 11,000, the vast majority of them standing, had two patches of green, where the goalmouths were cleared, and blue touchlines. But if the sight was unusual, the game was Cup football as we know it. One recalled the days of January 1972, when Newcastle United, holed up in a Worcester hotel while a cup-tie against Hereford United was rescheduled for five successive days, gradually talked themselves out of being able to impose superiority.

Newcastle lost; but on Saturday, Porfirio and John Moncur gradually managed to grace the game with proper direction, and from their promptings a better centre forward than Steve Jones would have profited. Three times he failed, allowing Marriott to make a brave save at his feet, glancing a header wide and then shooting wide when a tiring Wrexham defence allowed him an age to turn 12 yards from the net.

Having supported the referee's decision, as indeed did the

Wrexham manager, Brian Flynn, one must take issue with Red's accumulation of yellow cards. He took the names of four West Ham players and three from Wrexham for assorted fouls or dissent, taking no account of the unsure footing.

But football, especially in the Cup, is more than the attributes of skill, which West Ham can buy from around the globe. Wrexham, meanwhile, must recruit either from local sources or from the rejects of wealthier clubs. As their little

ground reminded one this weekend, the chasm between the Premiership and the impoverished classes is widening alarmingly.

For all that, do not assume that the replay between these two clubs will be a formality in the East End of London on January 15.

WREXHAM (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Marriott — M. Chalk, B. Hughes, P. Ward, G. Owen (sub: N. Russell, 80min) — S. Williams, S. Minto (sub: P. Roberts, 83).

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-1-1) M. Llorente — S. Bennett, P. Porter, M. Hughes, J. Dicks — D. Williamson, J. Marriott, I. Evans, M. Hughes — Porfirio — S. Jones. Referee: M. Reed.

Heath still unconvinced of power of forward thinking

Liverpool 1
Burnley 0

By PETER BALL

SO MUCH for the romance of the FA Cup. Burnley went to Anfield on Saturday with limited ambitions, and presumably fulfilled them, going away quite satisfied with a 1-0 defeat.

"Pleased with the performance, the lads did us proud, they stuck to the game-plan," Adrian Heath, the manager, said afterwards. "In a perfect world we'd have perhaps scored in the last ten minutes, but it wasn't to be."

But most teams need more than ten minutes to score at Anfield. Burnley had not shown any inclination until that final flurry as Cooke, a second forward, came on to the chants of "Attack!" from the Burnley fans.

Far from James having a shot to save, afterwards there was even a debate as to whether the Liverpool goalkeeper had had a goal kick to take. "I took two goal kicks and caught one cross," James said, a statement which said all there was to say about Burnley's approach.

But if Burnley provided nothing to warm the heart on a bitter Anfield afternoon, Liverpool were not much bet-

ter, despite having the perfect start with a fine goal after 12 minutes. Berger and Bjornebye combined and when Bjornebye's cross came in, McManus's dummy wrong-footed the Burnley defence, leaving Collymore with space and time to pick his spot.

That could have been the start of an avalanche. But Beresford made three outstanding saves, Burnley stuck to their game-plan, and Liverpool slowly lapsed into mediocrity as Barnes limped away and McManus was once again shackled by the attentions of a man-marker.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, saw it differently, insisting that McManus had played well in the face of Brass's attentions. Instead he criticised Collymore pointedly and Berger with surprising acerbity.

"We play as a team, and sometimes an individual lets us down — if Patrick had put his head up three times and played the ball on to the side, Macca would have scored three today," Evans said, showing a faith in McManus's finishing ability that was unsupported by empirical evidence.

To add to Liverpool's frustration, Babb and Thomas both picked up their sixth bookings of the season, with Barnes joining Redknapp on the injured list, and with Fowler missing on Saturday, they could be short of bodies.

Barnes, in particular, would be missed. After Collymore's goal, his passes offered Liverpool their best chances of breaking down Burnley's resistance. But Beresford, Winstanley and the impressive Harrison held firm.

If only they had shown equal vigour at the other end, even for 25 minutes rather than ten. "That's hindsight, is that," Heath said.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-3) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

BURNLEY (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

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BURNLEY (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

Blackburn move in for Citko

Blackburn Rovers are hoping to sign Alexander Citko, the Poland World Cup striker, from Widzew Lodz in a £4 million deal.

Citko, 21, who scored against England in the World Cup qualifying match at Wembley in October, is said to be flying to Ewood Park this week for talks over personal terms and to undergo a medical.

Citko should have no problems in obtaining a work permit after winning enough full caps in the past two seasons to qualify.

Leeds United have turned down Tomas Brodin's request to train with Parma, his former club. Bill Fotherby, the Leeds chairman, has also told the Italians that if they want the Sweden international, who is in breach of contract by staying away, then they must make a bid.

Fotherby is also angry that Tony Yeboah will play for Ghana against Morocco in a World Cup qualifying game on Sunday when Leeds consider him to be injured after pulling a hamstring against Manchester United last weekend.

Mirko Taccola, 26, the Napoli central defender, has joined Middlesbrough on a two-week trial.

Gullit quick to learn lesson from Chelsea's history

Chelsea 3
West Bromwich Albion 0

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

RUUD GULLIT admitted after the game that it had taken him a while to get to grips with the cockney and Scottish accents in his squad. However, the Chelsea player-manager seems to understand his club's place in British football folklore pretty well.

"Everybody thought it would be typical Chelsea to beat Liverpool then lose to a team from a lower division in the FA Cup," he said. The fact that the yellow-clad visitors on Saturday never looked remotely like a banana skin may be as much of a testament as any victory over the Premiership leaders to the new approach he has encouraged at Stamford Bridge.

"It's changed a bit," Dennis Wise, the captain, agreed. "We had to be professional, we didn't want to get beaten. It was hard, but our quality game came through in the end."

The danger, according to Gullit, had been complacency. "Everyone was in form against Liverpool; confidence is high. But, especially then, you have to perform and work hard. Against these teams it is difficult. They have nothing to

lose and you have to play in a certain way against them, and be as motivated as they are."

The upshot was that anyone expecting to see some of the free-flowing football on view in Chelsea's recent FA Cup Premiership home matches would have been disappointed, as an energetic West Bromwich Albion team made space hard to come by. It seemed Mark Hughes's type of game and, sure enough, the breakthrough came in the 39th minute after the Welshman had battled for Zola's cross. His prod reached Wise, who sent a low right-footed shot past Crichton.

For all their hard work, there were few indications that the visitors could force a replay. All doubts were erased

16 minutes from time when Di Matteo's through-pass was touched beyond Crichton by Burley.

Zola's late third, after Vialli's shot had come back off an upright, flattered Chelsea a little, although the "West Brom nil" part of the scoreline was about right. "We were well beaten," Alan Buckley, the frustrated Albion manager conceded. "We haven't done ourselves justice. We are quite a good footballing side, believe it or not."

Chelsea, beaten semi-finalists last season, are the side many fancy to win the competition this year. Gullit, naturally, would like Chelsea to be seen as more than just a perennial (barring the odd disaster) "good cup side".

"I don't think about the final," he said. "Of course I have my dreams, but I'll tell you at the end of the season if my dream came true. Today we played as good professionals. That's also how you can do well in the Premiership. You must concentrate against the so-called lower teams."

CHelsea (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (3-5-2) F. Godas — M. Dabney, F. Leacock, S. Clarke — D. Francis, D. West, E. Newton, R. de Manne, S. Minto (sub: C. Burley, 70min) — G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Vulliamy, 79).

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McGhee forced to look on bright side of defeat

Wolverhampton W 1
Portsmouth 2

By PAT GIBSON

THE scoreline was not quite as emphatic as it had been at Wembley in 1939 when Portsmouth beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 4-1 to take possession of the FA Cup throughout the years of war — but it might well have been. And that should give everyone at Molineux cause for concern.

It was easy, as Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton manager, said afterwards to deflect the disappointment of another inert home performance by calling it a "blessing in disguise" to a club which sees the Cup as a mere bauble compared with the Holy Grail of promotion to the FA Carling Premiership, and he readily accepted the invitation to do so.

"The positive side is that while other people are playing Cup games we are going to be playing league games and that will give us a chance to make ground," he said.

"This club has been to the sixth round twice in the past three years yet we are still in the Nationwide first division. If the cost of not going to the sixth round is being promoted, then I think it is a cost that we will all pay."

The trouble with blessings in disguise is that they can turn out to be fool's gold and it cannot have done much for Wolverhampton's self-esteem to have been so comprehensively outplayed by a Portsmouth side 13 places below them in the division.

This was their seventh defeat in 14 games at Molineux this season, and although McGhee insists that they have proved that they can still win promotion by reaching fourth place on the strength of their magnificent away record, he does concede that they have a big problem.

Perhaps it is the way Wolverhampton play. Their whole game is based on getting the ball to the legendary Bull and when they fail to do that as conspicuously as they did on Saturday, the passionate crowd gets on their backs and their confidence evaporates.

Portsmouth, in contrast, grew more assured as the game went on, passing the ball better, getting their wide players behind the Wolverhampton defence and utilising the skills and mobility of their strikers. Hall and Bradbury, to win the game.

The pair combined to provide the cross that McLaughlin headed past Stowell to put Portsmouth ahead in the 68th minute and then, after the substitute, Ferguson, had turned in the only decent cross Wolverhampton produced all afternoon, a minute later, Bradbury headed down Simpson's centre for Hall to score the winner.

Wolverhampton's wretched afternoon was summed up by the fact that their second-best scoring effort came from their goalkeeper, who went up for a corner in the last minute and forced Knight into his best save of the match. "I thought Stowell should have scored," McGhee said, tongue firmly in cheek. "He won't be playing up front next week, that's for sure."

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2) M. Stowell — N. Embury, M. Adams, M. Venn, S. Smith, S. Galloway (sub: D. Ferguson, 57min), S. O'Brien, G. Thomas, R. Girdlestone — D. Goodman (sub: I. Roberts, 87), S. B. B.

PORTSMOUTH (3-5-2) A. Knight — A. Wainwright, P. Bennett (sub: A. Thompson, 69), A. Rawford — R. Pettich, D. Hillier, J. Dutton, A. McLoughlin, F. Simpson — P. Hall, I. Bradbury. Referee: A. Willsie.



Wise opening goal



Collymore composed

FOOTBALL

Poll finds Souness in mood to argue

Reading 3
Southampton 1

By NO TENDANT

IN HIS supposedly reposed middle age, Graeme Souness has been known even to a pussycat. No longer apparently, has he been throwing tantrums at referees. At least not until Southampton were knocked out of the FA Cup, rather too easily for his liking, by a team in the lower reaches of a lower division. In return, he might find a charge of bringing the game into disrepute being laid at him by the FA.

As the Southampton manager surveyed the remnants of his beaten team at the end of this absorbing tie — two players had been sent off in the last 14 minutes — he decided to restrain anybody else from having their say to the referee, Graham Poll, who is known to be strong on discipline. But he could not resist attempting to give his own viewpoint as well, which turned into a sharp exchange with a hefty security man. It was not edifying to watch.

Then Souness had his say for the benefit of the media. "I spoke to the referee before the match and said I did not think the conditions were playable. He made two incredible statements. He said it would be just like a pitch in August and the players would be OK if they played at 90 per cent. But in the FA Cup, players don't go at 90 per cent."

"Mr Poll has a reputation within the game for wanting to make a name for himself and he certainly did that today. That is twice in a week that he has made players perform on a pitch that has been less than perfect." The other match to which he was referring was between Coventry City and Sunderland on New Year's Day.

The pitch, which was so hard that most of the players wore footwraps appropriate for an artificial surface, was passed fit on Friday, when it was so cold that the Thames at nearby Pangbourne was frozen over for the first time since the dreadful winter of 1963. Come Saturday lunch time, and the pipes at the ground were also frozen. "Chemical lavatories," the crowd were solemnly informed, had been

installed. There was a less impassioned view of the pitch from Darren Caskey, the scorer of Reading's terrific second goal. "There was nothing wrong with it," he claimed.

Souness was not so concerned with the sendings-off, partly, perhaps, because Southampton were already losing. Fourteen minutes from the end, Benali showed Morley in the face and conceded not only his place on the pitch, but a penalty as well. In the final minute, Slater was sent off for a foul and for swearing at one of the linesmen.

Benali has been sent off three times this season, one of these offences in a reserve match. Poll confirmed that on Saturday it was for "violent conduct and striking an opponent". Such indiscipline is always unnecessary, but particularly on this occasion when Benali and Morley went for a cross that Benali looked to have covered. Morley himself scored with the ensuing penalty.

It was this kind of lax defending which led to all of Reading's goals. Their first, scored by Lambert, was the result of Lundekvam attempting to bring the ball out of his own penalty area.

After Berkevic had nearly changed the direction of play and given Osimen the opportunity to equalise, Southampton conceded a second goal through failing to mark Morley when Lambert picked him out at the far post. Caskey, Reading's most costly signing, brought off the kind of volley that would have made others ponder why Tottenham Hotspur did not play him more often.

Reading had attempted from the outset to disrupt Southampton's policy of using three defenders. The huge right wing-back, Van Gool, tired early in the second half, necessitating one change, but errors in marking remained. Souness knew that Reading deserved their victory, and said as much. It is what he added to that which will not quickly be forgotten.

READING (3-5-2): B. Meehan — P. Hodgson, K. McManaman, A. Benali, D. Caskey, J. Lambert, M. Gossling, G. Poll. SOUTHAMPTON (3-5-2): D. Benali — N. Madgen, C. Lundekvam, J. G. Watson, S. Slater, J. van Gool, J. M. Gossling, S. Gossling, R. Slater, M. Robinson (sub: S. Gossling, S. Gossling, S. Gossling). Referee: G. Poll.



An angry Souness makes his point to Poll, the referee, after Southampton had been beaten by Reading

Grimsby slide down great divide

Sheffield Wednesday 7
Grimsby Town 1

By KEITH PIKE

ANYONE searching for evidence of the widening gap between football's haves and have-nots would have enjoyed themselves hugely at Hillsborough on Saturday. Grimsby Town most certainly did not. Stripped immediately of hope and ultimately of dignity, they were dismissed from the FA Cup with an arrogance bordering on contempt.

Eliminated in the previous two seasons by Charlton Athletic and Wolverhampton Wanderers, Sheffield Wednesday have invested their Pre-

mier league riches well. Unbeaten in 11 matches against the cream of the English game, they were now too powerful, too professional and too prolific for the likes of Grimsby. Never have so many inflatable haddocks, and dreams, been deflated so ruthlessly.

"After ten minutes of the second half I wanted the final whistle to go," Kenny Swain, the Grimsby caretaker-manager, said. "There is a gulf between the first division and the Premier League, but it was magnified by some of the goals we conceded."

Wednesday for the Cup? Why not? Going unbeaten for the rest of the season might not win them the champion-

ship, but it would get them to Wembley, and having now proved that they can win without their injured Italian playmaker, Benito Carbone, they will hardly be wanting for confidence.

Indeed, judging by the way that they set about Grimsby — sometimes through the middle, mostly down the flanks, but always with pace and purpose — they are scarcely short of self-belief already, and especially when the goal beckoned.

The most eye-catching of their strokes was the first, lobbed beautifully over an errant and stranded goalkeeper by Humphreys from around 35 yards; the most culpable headed ferociously

into his own net by Fiddling for Wednesday's third. Booth helped himself to a couple from close range. Humphreys added a routine second, and Hyde and Penbridge were rewarded with goals for their foot-slogging in central midfield alongside Whittingham, who had a foot in five of them. Grimsby's challenge may have been as feeble as the club's resources, but Wednesday were mighty impressive nonetheless.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): V. Presman — P. Atherton, D. Walker, D. Salmons, S. Nolan — G. Whittingham, G. Hyde (sub: S. Nolan, T. Mann, M. Penbridge, R. Barker (sub: O. Trustall 62) — R. Humphreys, A. Booth. GRIMSBY TOWN (4-2-2): J. Pearcey — K. Jobling (sub: J. McDermott, 46), A. Fiddling, R. Rodgers, J. Salmons — G. Chis (sub: O. Akin, T. Wedderburn, H. Woods, K. Black — J. Lester, C. Mendonca. Referee: D. Elbery.

Politics overshadow Pearce's progress

Nottingham Forest 3
Ipswich Town 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT IS a sorry state of affairs when the FA Cup third round — historically, 90 minutes of drama and dreams — pales into insignificance. It is sad occasion when the first Saturday of the new year — traditionally, the stuff of close calls and heroic deeds — is overshadowed by matters of a political and administrative nature.

For the record, where this tie will be effortlessly consigned without a second thought, Nottingham Forest comfortably beat Ipswich Town at the City Ground to reach the last 32 of the Cup. It was the third victory in five attempts for Stuart

Pearce, Forest's caretaker player-manager, and possibly strengthened his case, if somewhat prematurely, to enter the managerial madhouse on a permanent basis.

Saunders scored goals in the seventh and 75th minutes, and Allen, in the 27th minute, tucked in Pearce's deflected cross. Had Ipswich possessed a cutting edge to complement Scowcroft's deft endeavours up front and Sonner's craft in midfield, the result could have been radically different.

Would it have mattered to the bulk of the Forest supporters? Perhaps not. Some sections of their sparse ranks concentrated on chants of "Sack the board" rather than celebrations when success had been assured. With the club locked in the throes of a takeover, strapped for cash and still lurking ominously near the foot

of the FA Carling Premiership, there were more important items on the agenda.

Confusion, too, ahead of tonight's emergency general meeting at which Forest's 209 shareholders will vote on the rival consortia attempting to take control of the club. "I think Stuart will take the job, probably on Monday," Alan Hill, Forest's assistant manager, said. "He's got the bit between his teeth. I think he'll be superb." Half an hour later, Pearce begged to differ. "I'll make my mind up in my own time, when it's right for me," he said.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Croxall — D. Lytle, C. Cooper, S. Chis, S. Pearce — C. Allen (sub: S. Gossling, 70min), A. J. Hastings, D. Phelps, I. Wood — D. Saunders, A. Campbell (sub: B. Roy, 78). IPSWICH TOWN (4-2-2): R. Wright — G. Usherwell, A. Turner, J. Cundy, M. Tarrant — G. Williams — M. Stockwell, D. Sonner, C. Thomson, K. Dyer (sub: R. Naylor, 62) — J. Scowcroft. Referee: M. Bodenham.

Still on course in our pursuit of four trophies

STEVE McMANAMAN



feels relief at clearing the first FA Cup hurdle

THE romance of the FA Cup. Maybe they should call it the relief of the FA Cup, because after the hectic Christmas we have endured, it offered something of a diversion. Five games in 12 days is some schedule.

It was not a great holiday period for Liverpool, and we are disappointed with the five points we achieved. But put it into perspective: we had three difficult away games and yet we emerged still at the top of the Premiership. We are in a good position, the position every other team wants to be in.

It allows us to concentrate on the cups, and after Saturday's match with Burnley we have a Coca-Cola quarter-final against Middlesbrough on Wednesday.

Chelsea away, FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup, and then another league game. If you were to lose all those, your season would start to go pear-shaped. But, thankfully, it's not my style to worry. I am able to take a relaxed approach to the pressure we are under. It doesn't affect me unduly. I tend to be the optimist.

I know that we will be criticised for the manner of our win over Burnley, for not scoring more than one goal against a second division side, but the win was everything. And to be honest, they never remotely looked like scoring.

I was disappointed with the way they played, actually. They never really had a go and I thought they played better against us when we beat them 4-0 in pre-season training.

The upshot, though, is that Liverpool are still in every competition. People are already saying that we will become overextended, play too many games. It has even been suggested that we should just concentrate on a couple of competitions, but I can't accept that. There is no way we could ever enter a match not wanting to win.

The FA Cup really is a romantic competition. It has such a history and such an aura around it. The day itself at Wembley is truly wonderful. I am lucky enough to have won the Cup early in my career, and there is nothing like it. The noise, the colour, the pageantry of Wembley was a great experience.

So was coming back to Liverpool on the bus with the trophy. Robbie Fowler always says that his life's dream is to travel round Liverpool on the coach with a trophy, and I know why. When we beat Sunderland in 1992 we went through the area where my family were, and my friends, and I grabbed the Cup and

was hanging over the side waving it at them. I used to go to the town hall when I was little, sitting on the steps clapping as the buses came by, and now there I was getting the applause. I remember too, as a kid, sitting in on Cup Final day from about 10am, watching everything on the television — the team hotels, the coach rides to the game, walking out on the pitch, the celebrity games, the whole lot.

We were sick at losing to Manchester United last season, mostly because it was such a poor final and we didn't play well. There were a lot of people in the dressing-room that day saying they would be back, and we really do want to get there again.

We want to do it in the Coca-Cola, too. It doesn't have the same drama as the FA Cup, but it is still Wembley. I remember when we beat Bolton in the 1995 final. It was a Sunday, which was not so good, and then we went back to Liverpool the next day, because we had a game on the Wednesday.

It is still important, and if we can beat Middlesbrough, then there will be a semi-final to come. That's why we will go to the Riverside Stadium to give everything.

We beat them easily at home just before Christmas, but it will be a very different game this time. They will be pumped up for it because it is their chance to turn their season around a little. They have endured a lot of criticism, but if they can beat us to reach the semi-final, everything else will be forgotten for a while.

It is important to go for everything, to keep every option open. We have made the draw for the FA Cup fourth round comfortably, and can forget that for a little. Now the aim is to put the Coca-Cola Cup away successfully for a few weeks.

Chester timidity self-defeating

Middlesbrough 6
Chester City 0

By MARK HODKINSON

AT THE final whistle, Chris Priest, Chester City's midfield player, raced towards Emerson and virtually wrestled his shirt from his back. He then attempted to hide it by tucking it under his own shirt, as if he acknowledged that his zeal was somewhat undignified.

The incident summed up everything that was wrong about Chester City. They were hunting for souvenirs when they should have been searching for scalp.

They chose to play a cautious game of containment, leaving Jim Rimmer on patrol in Middlesbrough's half. This created ridiculous sub-plots like Milner and Woods, deep in their own half, warily

tracking Blackmore, who might have played nearly 200 games for Manchester United, but must have found this kind of attention flattering in the extreme.

Chester survived for 20 minutes before Ravanelli put his burnished head to a goal-bound header from Vickers. A one-two between Ravanelli and Hignett saw the latter slot home easily. Cox made it three as he shuffled along on his knees to meet another pass from the Italian. Ravanelli scored from a Stamp pass and then fed Beck, who found the net stylishly from just inside the area.

Chester played much better after conceding the second goal, finding a valour that had been missing hitherto. They wasted some decent chances before a shot from Shelton struck Whyte's hand and a penalty was awarded. Hignett

foolishly argued with the referee until he was booked for a second time and sent off. Noteman's appalling effort from the spot then almost reached the car park.

Stamp headed in Middlesbrough's sixth before three more witless bookings, Liddle for a foul on Milner, and Fjortoft and Whelan for an off-the-ball spat.

Kevin Ratcliffe, the Chester manager, agreed that his team had defended too deeply, but found much to praise in their performance. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said his team had been "nice and professional".

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): G. Watson — N. Cox (sub: C. Fleming, 46min), S. Vickers, D. Whyte — C. Liddle, C. Hignett, Emerson, R. Milner (sub: P. Stamp, 46), C. Blackmore — F. Ravanelli, M. Beck (sub: J. A. Forster, 58). CHESTER CITY (4-5-1): S. Seal — M. Woods, S. Milner, J. Asford, J. Jenkins — A. Whyte, C. Priest, G. Shelton (sub: M. Goss, 54), M. Fisher, K. Noteman (sub: G. Brown, 81) — S. Rimmer. Referee: G. Barber.

Duffy must start to make an impression

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

WHEN setting out his credentials for the job of Hibernian manager, Jim Duffy may not have mentioned the cowboy boots and the Marilyn Monroe calendar. They were liable, all the same, to make an impression on a visitor to his office at Dens Park, when he was still in charge of Dundee, as he swung his leg up on the desk and leaned back in his chair until his right shoulder was just below the picture of the movie star.

Given a suitable occasion, Duffy can be a playful man. At one photo session for an article he began by trying to strike the pose of the logo that was used in *The Saint* television series. He then decided that he was closer to an impersonation of Bruce Forsyth and started to work on that instead. "You won't get many managers doing this for you," Duffy

yelled, superfluously, to the photographer.

The distinctiveness is not that of a man who practises his idiosyncrasy, going through life with a counterfeit personality. Duffy simply follows his own instincts determinedly and the reactions of the bystander are of secondary importance. The impulses have been strong enough to make people fear for him.

When he was 28, in 1987, he suffered a grave knee injury while playing for Dundee and was told that he would have to retire, but Duffy could not resist returning to action. Although convinced by the specialists who told him that he could eventually be crippled if he continued to take part in games, prudence was overwhelmed by his desire for football.

It would only be a small surprise if, even now, he

insinuated himself into the Hibernian team one Saturday. The Edinburgh club has found itself a manager admired for his work at impossibly impoverished Dundee, whom he took to the Coca-Cola Cup final last season, and a human being with a vigorous identity. Nonetheless, there are no guarantees that these qualities will be sufficient. Since his appointment a week ago, Hi-

bernian have played two matches at Easter Road, losing 4-0 to Heart of Midlothian and, on Saturday, 2-1 to Rangers. Duffy was left to put his sense of humour to unwelcome use.

Admitting that he had yet to find his bearings in the stadium, he said: "People keep laughing when I open doors and walk straight into cupboards. If I have a couple more bad results they won't let me out again." With Hibernian lying seventh in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, the goodwill towards Duffy will soon reach its limits.

On Saturday, Hibernian took the lead and matched the champions for most of the first half, but their self-belief flagged after the interval. Yet this was an afternoon when conviction should have come readily to them. Rangers, who

have been badly affected by flu, failed on Friday in a request to have the match postponed, when the Scottish Football League decided that the club had sufficient resources left to fulfil the fixture, despite the submission of 28 medical certificates. Several of the players pressed into service did look as if they were battling against illness.

Despite being unwell, however, Brian Laudrup was able to create the equaliser for Erik Bo Andersen before winning the penalty from which Jorg Albertz clinched victory. The Rangers side had included eight internationals, with another two named as substitutes, and if their temperature was at a higher level than that of the opposition so, too, were their skills.

Cup draw, page 28

IT'S A LONG ROAD TO WEMBLEY

GO THE DISTANCE

RUGBY UNION: FRENCHMAN MARKS DEBUT WITH 14 POINTS

Harlequins revived by Lacroix's kick-start

Wasps 17
Harlequins 19

By JOHN HOPKINS

HAVE Harlequins turned the corner? In future, will this game be regarded as the one when their disparate and multi-talented group of players produced a real team effort? For too long Harlequins have promised so much and delivered so little, but they showed fortitude and commitment to make sure that they avoided a fourth successive defeat in the Courage Clubs Championship.

Did Thierry Lacroix make the difference? On his debut for Harlequins, the stand-off half from Dax, who is purportedly being paid £5,000 per game, suddenly contributed to the way his team came from eight points behind after 50 minutes to snatch a thrilling victory. Class nearly always shows but, even so, it was hard to believe, from the way Lacroix landed five kicks out of five and competed admirably under intense pressure, that he had not played since October.

No wonder Dick Best, the director of rugby at Harlequins, had a wide grin on his face after the game. "Fourteen points in his first game," Best said. "We are delighted, we have not had a kicker before."

We have one now. Things are looking up for 1997.

One of the many subplots that contributed to making this such an enjoyable game was being able to compare Lacroix with Alex King, the Wasps stand-off. Lacroix won this encounter, though King did drop one goal, kicked well with his right foot and coped with the attention of the Harlequins back row. He is not as frail as he looks. Another subplot was the confrontation between Vavara, Tuigamala and Will Carling in the centre, which ended all square.

As play moved at a hectic pace, it was a day for back-row forwards. Sure enough, Chris Sheasby, Lawrence Dallaglio, Michael White, Bill Davison and Rory Jenkins all caught the eye. But the forward who really stood out was Laurent Cabannes. His shock of dark hair makes him look younger than he is and, on occasions, his athleticism is something to behold. It is only his knees, covered with yards of bandages, that reveal how long he has been around. Yesterday he was outstanding in attack and defence, creating one try, possibly saving another.

Ten thousand spectators braved the biting cold and saw a game that was relentless and thrilling from the first whistle to the last. From the way Wasps started, there looked to

be only one team in it. Damian Cronin scored a try as early as the sixth minute and had an energetic canter again a few minutes later. Gareth Rees kicked two penalties.

Wasps, much to the enjoyment of a vocal crowd, led 11-6 at half-time. But Harlequins had a better organised lineup and, although Rees kicked another penalty to put Wasps 14-6 ahead in the sixth minute of the second half, the balance, which had been in favour of the home side, now began to tilt discernibly to the visitors.

Cabannes, running out of defence, set off the move that ended with the Harlequins try. In between, Lacroix and Huw Harris moved the ball on. Then, Gary Connolly slipped in off his left foot and dived between Will Green and Rees, leaving them both lying on the ground looking disconsolately at the fair-haired figure who has made such an impression for Harlequins as he ran under the posts to score. Two minutes later, Wasps were caught off

side and Lacroix kicked his third penalty, the one that put Harlequins in the lead for the first time.

That made for a pulsating last quarter in which Lacroix kicked another penalty. King dropped a goal and Wasps hammered away relentlessly. There was no doubting their determination. With a couple of minutes remaining, Rees had a penalty chance from near the halfway line. It was a big kick and he is a man for the big occasion, but this one was too much for him. Wasps had conceded too many penalties and for once Harlequins had played with real spirit.

SCORES: Wasps: Try: Cronin. Penalty goals: Rees (3). Dropped goal: King. Harlequins: Try: Connolly. Conversion: Lacroix. Penalty goals: Lacroix (4). WASPS: G. Rees, J. Upton, N. Greenhalgh, V. Lacroix, S. Rees, A. King, A. Garsdale, D. Cronin, S. Marshall, M. Green, L. Dallaglio, A. Reed, D. Cronin, M. White, C. Sheasby. Cronin replaced by R. Jones (17min). White replaced by J. Dutton (76). HARLEQUINS: R. Paul, D. Luger, G. Connolly, W. Carling, P. Marshall, T. Lacroix, M. Harris, L. Barakovich, P. Delaney, J. Leonard, R. Jenkins, D. Llewellyn, G. Llewellyn, C. Cabannes, W. Davison, M. Marshall. Lacroix replaced by C. Wiggins (17min). Jenkins replaced by M. Alston (76). Referee: E. Morrison (Gloucestershire).



Sheasby, right, lends support as Tuigamala, the Wasps centre, is tackled by Jenkins, of Harlequins, yesterday

Spanish are scuppered by forward power play

England 17
Spain 15

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

HEADINGLEY may now be the base of Leeds rugby union club, but it is still widely regarded as the spiritual home of rugby league. International rugby union was last played there in 1893, until yesterday, when the women of Spain and their English counterparts took to the heated turf.

Unlike the men 104 years, when they were beaten by Scotland, England were the victors yesterday. Just. It took a last-minute try to quell a valiant Spain. Compared with a 20,000 crowd in 1893, the terraces were less congested. No more than 150 shivering souls turned up for a match originally earmarked for Morley and saved by Headingley's ageing underground electric blanket.

This warm-up game before England's defence of their home nations title later in the month provided quite a scare. The world champions of 1994 were trailing 15-10 until Spain, for a second time, were sucker-punched by a quick tapped penalty and thrust for the line by Emma Mitchell, the five-time Saracens scrum half. Deirdre Mills had earlier missed two straightforward penalties, but her winning conversion went over.

Women's rugby in England, one of the great growth areas of the past decade, now has its first professional administrator. Nicky Ponsford was on the replacements' bench yesterday and her brief to increase participation is already paying dividends, especially at youth level. There are now 250 clubs and a record 48 teams are involved in the Bread for Life National Cup.

Spain rued an early penalty miss by Ines Etxezibet, which struck a post. England played a tight game, which brought two tries for Gill Burns, the captain and No 8, one from a tapped penalty and another a pushover, but too often control was lacking and the smaller Spanish forwards mopped up the trouble.

England's victory was eventually forged by forward power, but Spain's greater adventure was rewarded by two marvellous second-half tries by Paz Estevan, whose creative half-back partnership with Rosa Calafat, Spain's captain, lit up an otherwise uninspiring contest.

SCORES: England: Tries: Burns (2), Mitchell. Conversion: Mills. Spain: Try: Estevan (2). Conversion: Etxezibet. Penalty goals: Campbell. ENGLAND: P. George (Wasps), J. Morris (Widow), J. Tully (Widow), A. Wallace (Leeds), P. Spence (Clifton), M. Mills (Richmond), E. Mitchell (Saracens), M. Marshall (Edinburgh), J. Potter (Wasps), J. Smith (Widow), J. Rose (Saracens), J. G. (Leeds), C. G. (Saracens), H. G. (Leeds), G. Burns (Wasps), captain. G. Burns temporarily replaced by S. Robertson (Leeds, 2-64min).

SPAIN: B. Lopez, M. Pons, G. Morphy, R. Pons, E. Estevan, P. Calafat (captain), N. Williams, B. M. Lopez, C. Lopez, M. Baldo, P. Lopez, M. G. Lopez, M. Lopez, replaced by C. Lopez (Saracens). Referee: D. Chapman (England).

Neath far too sharp for abject Eagles

Neath 39
United States XV 15

By ALISON KERVIN

THE American corporations who thrust billions of dollars at the country's traditional sports have failed significantly to back an enthusiastic national rugby union team — the Eagles — that is desperate for financial assistance.

So, on Saturday, at Cardiff Arms Park, they were playing together for the first time in three months and looked decidedly second rate, losing possession in turnovers and making basic errors as Neath ran circles round them. Neath dominated every area of play — particularly in the first half. In the second period, the United States played with more confidence, but their forwards were still vastly outclassed.

Neath took the lead in the first few minutes, a kick and chase by Chris Higgs giving them their opening try. The United States barely had time to gather their thoughts before the second score came, Patrick Horgan combining with Andrew Kenbury for a try that was converted by Paul Williams. Barrie Williams, the Neath hooker, took a tapped penalty from which Geraint Evans cut through in the centre for a third try.

The United States opened their account when Matt Alexander kicked a penalty goal, but it was matched for Neath by Paul Williams, who then converted a try by Barrie Williams.

Steve Williams, the Neath captain, who will be facing the United States again on Saturday as part of the Wales back row, scored Neath's fifth try two minutes after half-time.

The United States gained some credibility in the second half when Andre Bachelet, at scrum half, sped away to touch down, then Mark Scharrenberg, in the centre, was put clear by Matt Alexander. Both scorers play for Reading in the third division of the Courage Clubs Championship, where they are the only full-time professionals. Neath finished their scoring with Kevin Allen, a second-half replacement, crossing for their sixth try.

The United States have a considerable amount of work to do before they meet Wales, particularly on avoiding making simple handling and kicking errors, that would surely be exploited by a national side.

SCORES: Neath: Tries: Higgs, Horgan, B. Williams, A. Kenbury, S. Williams, P. Williams (2). Conversion: Alexander. Penalty goals: Alexander. UNITED STATES XV: C. Higgs, V. Arlott, B. Williams, M. Scharrenberg, B. Horgan, M. Alexander, A. Bachelet, C. Lippert, T. Gower, P. Williams, S. Williams, J. Boucher. B. Williams replaced by M. Thomas (44min); Horgan replaced by D. Hawkins (57); Boucher replaced by R. Jones (57); Boucher replaced by R. Jones (57); Boucher replaced by R. Jones (57). UNITED STATES XV: C. Higgs, V. Arlott, B. Williams, M. Scharrenberg, B. Horgan, M. Alexander, A. Bachelet, C. Lippert, T. Gower, P. Williams, S. Williams, J. Boucher. B. Williams replaced by M. Thomas (44min); Horgan replaced by D. Hawkins (57); Boucher replaced by R. Jones (57); Boucher replaced by R. Jones (57). Referee: J. Beattie (Scotland).



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Lessons from Zimbabwe must be learnt if reputations are to be salvaged on second leg of tour

Sorry England require more than fighting talk

By SIMON WILDE

BEFORE leaving Harare for Auckland and the second leg of England's winter tour, to New Zealand, David Lloyd and Michael Atherton were putting as brave a face as they could on the outcome of the first leg, in Zimbabwe. However, a summary of the results there tells its own shocking tale: played ten, won two, lost five, drawn two, with one match abandoned.

Rather than disclose how much these results differed from expectations, coach and captain preferred on Saturday to look forward to the different conditions and challenges awaiting them in New Zealand. They insisted that morale remained good within the team, and that there was nothing for it but to get back down to work once their journey was complete. Asked whether he was still willing to lead a losing side, Atherton said that he did not see the point in giving up.

Underpinning their argument is the reasoning that, by sticking to what they are doing, things will somehow improve. They are going to keep telling their charges that they are still good players, that the media has been unduly harsh, that the opposition is no better than they are, and that everything will be all right on the night.

Men charged with running a sports team sometimes have little option but to massage the truth, but the question has to be asked: what earthly reason is there for believing that England will do any better in New Zealand than in Zimbabwe, let alone at home to Australia next summer? Whatever is being said, it is going to be hard for the players to pick themselves up from what must have been a disheartening six weeks in southern Africa.

The facts tell a brutal story. England played the full Zimbabwe side five times and did not win once — this the same Zimbabwe who were beaten in ten of their first 20 Test matches, who had lost their ten previous one-day internationals against Test-playing nations, and who had never won a limited-overs series.

Now, after a 3-0 drubbing in the one-day internationals and two inconclusive Test matches (even if the visitors were one ball away from winning in Bulawayo), it is England who have lost their past 12 one-day matches against Test nations overseas, where they have not won a one-day series in five years; England who have won only one Test series on tour in the past decade.

They last won a series against Australia in 1967, against Pakistan in 1982 and against West Indies in 1969. When will England first beat Zimbabwe, a country for which cricket has been revitalised after so many recent setbacks by the events of the past few weeks, and which may now continue to blossom as English cricket continues to wither on the vine?

There have, of course, been plusses. The return to form of Alec Stewart, the progress made by John Crawley, Darren Gough and Robert Croft, and to a lesser extent by Nasser Hussain and Nick Knight, are all causes for encouragement, and suggest that there is potentially the core of a good side for the next few years.

However, these players will not be tasting success regularly unless an all-rounder worth his salt is unearthed rapidly, as well as two or three bowlers of quality. Andy Caddick may yet have something to contribute in his native New Zealand, but the impression he made in the early days in Zimbabwe was so insipid that he was not chosen for any of the international fixtures, and despite bowling well at times, Alan Mullally did nothing to suggest that he has it in him to bowl out Test sides regularly.

The danger is that, by talking as they did, Lloyd and Atherton could be accused of complacency, a charge that was levelled even before the team left for Zimbabwe, having not touched bat or ball for two months and preferring to settle for a fitness and golfing get-together in Portugal.

While England were having nothing to do with the game, Zimbabwe played Test series in Sri Lanka and Pakistan and

girded their loins for the matches at home that they wanted to win above all others. When England possess such a large management team, why was no one sent to monitor Zimbabwe's progress? Why was it, too, that Atherton had to wait until the New Year's Day debacle at Harare Sports Club to learn that it is dangerous to leave 60 runs to score from the last ten overs of a one-day match — a bread and butter target on English pitches — in the conditions that prevail in Zimbabwe, when Lloyd was there with the Under-19 team only a year ago?

If anyone in the England camp harbours the comfortable thought that winning and losing is simply cyclical, he ought to remember that Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, the new chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, does not hold with this view.

MacLaurin's arrival during the second Test in Harare, where England gave their worst batting performance of the tour to be dismissed for 156 on the first day, could not have been more timely, because he is already convinced that English cricket possesses deep-seated problems that must be solved if this multimillion-pound business is not to be placed in jeopardy.

MacLaurin understands that cricket is a market product, which is not to say that he is insensitive to the game as a game, but he knows that the bottom line is that few people are willing to back a failing product, as the recent withdrawal of Telford Bitter as sponsor of the national team testifies. Even as he starts to take soundings from the counties and other interested parties about what revival plan he should put forward in the next few months, he is reiterating that nothing must be allowed to harm the game's image.

Within this context, the England captain and coach represent the public face of the national game, and MacLaurin expects them to be approachable and enthusiastic at all times. Atherton's habit of being a reluctant interviewee does not sit happily with this brief, nor does Lloyd's often passionate, rather than pragmatic, view of events.

Surely the time must also end when anyone should attempt to qualify further England defeats in one-day internationals overseas by saying that they had not brought with them the best one-day players. England



The return to form of Stewart, left, and Gough's progress gave England reason to believe that they possess the core of a good side



New Zealand plan early strike

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN AUCKLAND

ENGLAND'S cricketers flew into New Zealand early this morning after a 30-hour flight from Harare for the second part of their winter tour. If they were seeking a safe port to hide from the gales of criticism, they encountered in Zimbabwe there was nothing to encourage them. "England", a Wellington newspaper trailed on its back page by way of welcome, "expect the worst".

That, sadly, is how England are now regarded in every cricket-playing country. In Australia there is disbelief that David Lloyd, the coach, can presume so much from such lack of achievement. In New Zealand they know and care so little about the touring party that a player-by-player guide in yesterday's national Sunday paper (briefed), it should be said, by Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, who is wintering here referred to a Yorkshire bowler called Silverman.

New Zealand's two finest players of recent years have urged their successors to hit England hard, and hit them immediately. "New Zealand should not be worried about the England side," Martin

Crowe said. "We need to go into the series with a good game-plan, and stick to it." Sir Richard Hadlee was more explicit. "We have to nail these guys," he said.

"Very rarely do we go into a series as favourites," Hadlee said, "and this is a vital period for our game. We have enough talent to do it, and the players should now have enough belief. They must say, 'come on, England are here for the taking'. And boy, if we can't whip them now, then we have a lot of soul-searching left to do ourselves."

Of 26 previous series between the teams, New Zealand have won only two, and they lack players of the class

of Hadlee and Crowe. But they are good enough to have won a Test in Pakistan this winter. Under Steve Rixon, the former Australia Test player, they are reshaping their team.

Rixon, according to Hadlee, "is absolutely right in his approach. He can't be too fazed with what has gone on [with England]. His job clearly is to get the team to perform to the best of its ability." If ability is defined by the results the teams have achieved over the past year then they are well-matched: England won one Test out of nine, New Zealand one out of six.

Michael Atherton will play to a testimonial match for

Danny Morrison here tomorrow in an effort to find some batting form after managing only 196 runs in 13 innings in Zimbabwe. Dominic Cork, who missed the first leg of the winter tour because of domestic problems, might also play.

But first the Derbyshire all-rounder had to explain to Lloyd why he missed two fitness assessments in England over Christmas. On arriving here a few hours ahead of the main party, Cork said that there had been a breakdown in communications between him and England's fitness adviser, Dean Riddle. "I'm raising to go, I'm physically fit and I can't wait to start playing," Cork said. "I'm clear in my mind that I'm ready to concentrate exclusively on cricket."



Cork was unmoved by this Maori welcome to Auckland

Letters, page 19

TOUR STATISTICS

Nov 30 (Harare) Districts 198 for 9 (45.3 overs) Match abandoned
Dec 1 (Harare) England 211 for 5 (50 overs) (A. J. Stewart 105, N. Hussain 50; President's XI 215 for 5 (45.5 overs). Lost by five wickets.
Dec 3 (Harare) England 197 (R. D. B. Croft 90 not out and 180 (J. P. Crawley 74; Mashonaland 280 (P. C. R. Tuffell 6-78, R. D. B. Croft 4-68) and 58 for 3. Lost by seven wickets.
Dec 8 (Bulawayo) England 210 for 9 (50 overs) (N. V. Knight 54; Mashonaland 151 (43.3 overs). Won by 58 runs.
Dec 10-13 (Bulawayo) England 334 (N. V. Knight 111, J. P. Crawley 68) and 104 for 5 (N. V. Knight 96, A. J. Stewart 73). Match drawn.
Dec 26-30 (Harare) Second Test: England 156 and 185 for 3 (A. J. Stewart 101 not out, P. C. R. Tuffell 50 not out, Zimbabwe 215 (D. Gough 4-40). Match drawn.
Jan 1 (Harare) Second one-day international: Zimbabwe 249 for 7 (150 overs) (D. Gough 4-43). England 179 for 7 (42 overs) (J. P. Crawley 73). Lost by five runs on revised target.
Jan 3 (Harare) Third one-day international: Zimbabwe 249 for 7 (150 overs). England 118 (20 overs). Lost by 131 runs.

	P	W	D	L	NR
First-class	4	1	2	1	0
One-day	6	1	0	4	1
Total	10	2	2	5	1

ENGLAND FIRST-CLASS TOUR AVERAGES

Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	0's
J. P. Crawley	4	6	1	328	112	65.60	2	2	110
A. J. Stewart	4	6	1	334	101	67.11	1	3	30
N. V. Knight	4	6	0	328	114	41.00	1	2	30
N. Hussain	4	6	0	249	113	31.12	0	0	10
A. R. Caddick	4	6	0	87	28	21.75	0	0	10
R. D. B. Croft	4	5	1	112	80	28.00	0	1	20
G. P. Thorpe	4	5	1	117	45	29.25	0	1	10
R. C. Tuffell	4	5	1	15	10	15.00	0	0	10
R. C. Tuffell	4	6	0	102	55	13.75	0	1	30
P. C. R. Tuffell	4	6	0	10	10	2.50	0	0	10
C. White	1	1	0	9	9	9.00	0	0	0
M. A. Atherton	4	6	1	27	12	5.40	0	0	30
A. D. Mullally	4	6	1	4	4	2.25	0	0	10

Bowling	M	O	R	W	Avg	Best	5w	10w
G. P. Thorpe	24	9	9	2	20.0	1-3	0	0
C. E. W. Silverwood	25	8	71	4	17.75	3-63	0	0
D. Gough	124	26	367	19	19.31	6-64	2	1
R. D. B. Croft	162	40	349	16	21.81	4-66	0	0
P. C. R. Tuffell	157	38	407	14	29.07	5-78	1	0
C. Tuffell	18	4	41	1	41.00	1-41	0	0
A. D. Mullally	82	210	420	2	210.00	2-18	0	0
A. R. Caddick	42	10	127	3	42.33	2-38	0	0
P. C. R. Tuffell	9	2	33	0			0	0

© Source: ICC-PA Cricket Record

Glorious partnership fuelled by audacity

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN CAPE TOWN

NEWLANDS (fourth day of five): India, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, need 375 runs to beat South Africa

A REALLY memorable partnership between Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin on Saturday afternoon, when that alone could have saved India, has kept the second Test match here alive. South Africa will still almost certainly win it, but it would be good to think that half the Tests to be played in 1997 will produce as worthwhile a game as this one.

With one day left, India, needing 427 to win, are 52 for three. Even with Tendulkar and Azharuddin yet to be got out, they will not make them of course. Targets as stiff as this are never reached in Test cricket. But if India were to get away with a draw, that alone will make the last day worth watching.

When South Africa thought it safe to declare their second innings ten minutes after tea yesterday, India were left to bat for 28 overs before the close, and in that time they lost Mongolia, Ramani and David Mongia to something just about unplayable from Donald, and David, a batsman of delightful promise, to what

looked a pretty chancy decision. Indian commentators likened the weather here at the moment to Jaiapur at its best and it is an excellent five-day pitch, so India can have no grievances on that account.

After 35 minutes' play on Saturday they were facing their second drubbing within a week. It seemed perfectly possible, indeed quite likely, that the match would be over that evening. Needing 329 even to save the follow-on, and with the ball moving around, they were 58 for five when Azharuddin joined Tendulkar. I am inclined to think that in the circumstances the partnership that followed was the most scintillating I have watched in 2,000 days, or a few more, of writing about Test cricket.

The setting too, was won-

derful, and to round it all off the great Nelson Mandela was among the 18,000 present, having asked to come along. "Sport," he once said, "has a role to play in uniting many countries of the world because it speaks a language and spreads ideals which reach circles beyond the reach of politicians."

Well, while adding 222 in 175 minutes and 40 overs, India's young captain and his more venerable predecessor played a game that has been beyond the reach of almost everyone who has ever batted. It was a kind of magic, the synchronisation of eye and wrist, informed in Tendulkar's case by a calculating cricket mind.

Azharuddin, whose 115 took him 109 balls, was on such a "high" and getting away with

such liberties that Tendulkar seemed unsure whether or not to counsel moderation. It is very rare to see two great players spreading their wings together in a Test match. It never happened, for example, with Compton and Hutton, or on a less exalted plane with Gower and Botham. I saw Frank Worrell and Everton Weekes make 283 together in 3½ hours in the Trent Bridge Test of 1950, but the bowling then was less demanding and the situation much less critical than faced the two Indians now. In the end Azharuddin, still in a world of his own, ran himself out, and Tendulkar, with the last man in, fell to a stupendous one-handed catch on the square-leg boundary.

So Saturday was a great day's cricket. Even so, India's main aim yesterday had to be

dictated by their deficit of 170. It was to keep South Africa in the field for as long as they could with a holding operation. The way of doing that these days is by fitting in no more than 13 or at the most 14 overs in the hour (in theory 15 is the statutory requirement) and having your leg spinner. In this case Kumble, bowl into the rough outside the right-handed batsman's leg stump. If wickets fall, so much the better.

In the event, they now did, so that the time came yesterday afternoon when South Africa were casting vaguely anxious glances at the scoreboard. When Cronje was sixth out, the third wicket to fall in quite quick succession, they were still only 325 ahead and the pitch was little different from what it had been when Tendulkar and Azharuddin enjoyed themselves so much.

Kumble had to wait until his 61st over before taking his first wicket of the match; but from round the wicket, between lunch and Cronje's declaration, he bowled 16 overs for 38 runs and the wickets of Cullinan, bowled trying to improve, and Cronje, caught at short leg. Nothing much, but he and Pollock, by adding 101 together, gave South Africa all the runs and many more that they were likely to need.

Lara back on century duty

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN LARA scored his first century on tour as West Indies beat Australia by seven wickets in a high-scoring limited-overs international in Brisbane yesterday.

Lara made a scintillating return to his dominating best in scoring 102 to steer West Indies to victory, with seven balls to spare, in their World Series encounter at the Gabba. Chasing Australia's imposing 281 for four in 50 overs, West Indies comfortably reached 284 for three on the strength of Lara's efforts and an equally impressive century from Carl Hooper.

Hooper, batting one place below his vice-captain at No 4, abandoned his early support-

ing role, once Lara was out, to take responsibility during the final overs. Fittingly, he hit the winning runs to finish unbeaten on 110.

After looking badly out of sorts for several weeks, Lara finally found his timing and placement in a purposeful innings that featured two sixes and eight fours. He and Hooper shared in a third-wicket partnership of 154 off only 167 balls.

The result proved particularly disappointing for Mark Waugh, the Australia opener, who matched Lara's achievement by scoring 102, before being run out. Stuart Law, the all-rounder, contributed a bold 93, joining with Waugh to

add 145 runs for the second wicket after Australia had won the toss in ideal batting conditions.

It was a highly impressive run chase by West Indies, who have reversed their fortunes after losing the opening two matches in this competition. Only New Zealand, who amassed 297 to beat England in Adelaide 14 years ago, have recorded a "higher" winning total batting second in a one-day international on Australian soil.

West Indies lead the triangular tournament with six points from three victories in five games. Australia, who have lost nine of their past 11 one-day internationals at home and abroad, have four points. Pakistan, who have played one game less than their rivals, are also on four points.

Pakistan, meanwhile, tuned up for their limited-overs international against Australia in Hobart on Tuesday with a hard-fought three-wicket win over Tasmania. The tourists reached their 236-run target with an over to spare. They appeared to be cruising at 161 for two but lost four wickets in 33 balls to slide to 178 for six before Mushtaq Ahmed, the leg-spinner, guided them home with 15 not out.

SCOREBOARD FROM BRISBANE

AUSTRALIA		WEST INDIES	
M. E. Waugh run out	102	S. L. Campbell c Healy b Bichel	6
M. A. Taylor c Murray b McLean	26	T. J. Murney c Moody b Stuart	21
G. Law c Lara b Bichel	93		
S. R. Waugh run out	110		
M. G. Bevan not out	18		
G. S. Bennett not out	18		
Extras (lb 7, w 3, nb 8)	18		
Total (4 wickets, 50 overs)	281		
T. M. Moody, H. A. Healy, S. K. Warne, A. J. Bichel and A. M. Stuart did not bat.			
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57, 2-202, 3-227, 4-251			
BOWLING: Bichel 10-2-31, Walsh 9-0-50-0, Ambrose 9-0-33-0, McLean 6-0-23-1, Charlesworth 2-0-16-0, Hooper 7-0-52-0, Adams 6-4-7-0			

SCOREBOARD FROM CAPE TOWN

SOUTH AFRICA		INDIA	
A. C. Hudson b Sivaram	55	W. V. Raman run out	5
G. Krombein b Sivaram	0	S. C. Ganguly c M. M. Khan b Donald	23
A. M. Boucher b Sivaram	0	H. S. Tandon b Sivaram	160
L. Hughes c Donald b Sivaram	12	V. V. S. Laxman c Richardson b Pollock	5
D. J. Cullinan b Kumble	65	M. Agharwal run out	115
W. J. Cronje c Donald b Kumble	18	H. S. Tandon b Sivaram	2
G. Krombein not out	69	A. Kumble c Richardson b Donald	2
S. M. Pollock not out	40	J. Smith b Pollock	11
Extras (lb 4, nb 12, w 1)	17	G. Ganguly not out	2
Total (6 wickets, 25 overs)	256	Extras (lb 9, nb 11)	20
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-7, 3-33, 4-127, 5-133, 6-155		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-24, 3-25, 4-33, 5-58, 6-380, 7-318, 8-340	
BOWLING: Sivaram 18-5-78-3, Gangesh			

Oliver Holt begins a series on the fallen Formula One giants emerging from hibernation

Benetton set out to regain place in the sun



Formula One motor racing has fewer new regulations to cope with next season than in past times, but it does have a new lore. The living legend of Michael Schumacher preoccupies every team owner with pretensions to success. Flavio Briatore, the man who once owned the golden child, can read the runes more accurately than most. Briatore, the managing director, sits behind his desk in his office at the Benetton factory in Enstone, Oxfordshire, bathed in a half-light cast by the dark wood panelling that lines the room, staring out at the falling snow. "There is nobody out there like Schumacher," he says. "If you want to beat him, just make sure your car is a second quicker than the Ferrari. That is the only way."

That is the task. That is the bottom line. The duels that will take place on circuits from South America to Suzuka between early March and late October will play a part in the destiny of the drivers' and constructors' titles, but since everyone knows that nobody is Schumacher's equal, the crux lies in the equipment.

Although the first race, in Melbourne in early March, will be nerve-racking enough, the moment of truth is a lot closer. This is the week that team owners will begin baring their teeth in earnest, watching as Ferrari unveil their new car at their headquarters in Maranello tomorrow, and then Tyrrell launch the vehicle to propel Damon Hill into the next phase of his career at the Motor Show in Birmingham on press day on Thursday.

Even allowing for the complex deceptions—the "sandbagging"—that can dominate winter testing, the destination of the championship will probably be painfully apparent long before the cars line up on the grid for the Australian Grand Prix. If the cars are not quick out of the box, the saying goes, they never will be quick.

For all its summer fanfare, its jaunts to Monte Carlo and to Monza, grand prix racing is really



Briatore, the Benetton managing director, has his eyes on the prizes at the team's headquarters in Oxfordshire, where he says his charges have wintered well

'Since everybody knows that Schumacher has no equal as a driver, the crux lies in the equipment. That is the bottom line'

a winter's tale. In spring, its buds may wither on the branch; by summer, they have often fallen to the ground, rotting and yellowing. Now, in the months that straddle the end of the year, is the time when hope bursts into glorious technicolour in Formula One.

It is in full bloom at Enstone, at a team that learnt the hard way last year that if things are not right at the beginning of the season, there is little chance of putting them right during it, or at least not quickly enough to recover lost ground. "December, January and February," Briatore said. "They are the months you are not competing but you are preparing yourself for winning or losing."

Last season, Benetton could not cope with the loss of Schumacher and the process of adapting to two

new drivers, Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi, who had different *modi operandi* to the young German. Mistakes were made, morale dropped. From taking the constructors' and drivers' championships in 1995, Benetton did not win a race last year.

At the end of the season, they seemed like a team under siege. Ross Brawn, their highly-rated technical director, defected to Ferrari and their designer, Rory Byrne, retired from the sport. There were even rumours, hotly denied by Benetton, that they were in financial trouble and were

trying to get rid of Alesi. The winter, though, has rejuvenated them. Alesi and Berger are optimistic, happy now in their changed environment after struggling to settle in. Promotions from within to fill the gaps left by Brawn and Byrne seem to have fostered an *esprit de corps* that was, untypically, missing last year. At

last, there is a pervading sense of a new beginning at Benetton.

"We reached the end of a cycle last season," Briatore said. "When one cycle is finished you need to embark on another. It is like coming to the end of a curve on a graph. We had great success with Ross, but you always need to recognise when one period is finished."

"Sometimes, you create a big name, someone who has big success, but then you have to have the nerve to change the name. Now there is a new challenge for Pat Symonds, Ross's replacement."

TOMORROW

Designs on success: why evolution not revolution is the way ahead for Benetton

This company is not a one-man band. It is more complicated than that, I believe we need to give the possibility to people out there to grow.

"In 20 years, there will not be the same people around. You need new blood, new talent. It is good for the company because the promotions we have made show that if you work hard, you have the possibility to grow in the company. Everybody is very motivated now. The ambience is very good and we are back in business."

His biggest hope is that Alesi, too, will be back in business after a year plagued by inconsistencies and several careless accidents that left him fourth in the championship. Alesi and his Japanese girlfriend, Kumiko Goto, had a child in November, and Briatore is



Alesi: settled and optimistic

confident that the headstrong Frenchman will have matured enough in his attitude to put together a realistic attempt on the drivers' title.

"This is his last chance," Briatore said. "He has to show that he is not only talented but that he is a Formula One driver. He knows now that he has to spend more time with his engineers, involve himself deeper in the whole business of grand prix racing, and try to understand better what is going on. He needs to be part of the team, not something outside the team. This is what he was missing before and I need him to concentrate more on that."

"He changed from a very emotional situation to a very professional situation at the end of 1995 and it was too much for him to start with. When you change dramatically like that, it is like divorcing after many years and taking up with a new girlfriend. It can be a bit strange at first and you have to try to understand each other. Getting that right in the winter can be just as important as getting the car right and we did not have the time for either last year."

The rumours of financial problems, the suggestion that was floating around the sport several weeks ago that Benetton had missed out on significant bonus payments from sponsors because of their poor results, have disappeared, too, now that the season is drawing near.

"I like reading that kind of rubbish," Briatore said. "It is a good exercise for people who try to take money out of my pocket. But I know how much money I have in my pocket and I am happy."

Money in his pocket is one thing. Time up his sleeve after Ferrari run their new car will be a more priceless asset altogether.

SWIMMING

Klim steals the honours from Poll at World Cup

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

CLAUDIA POLL, Costa Rica's Olympic champion, won three gold medals but it was Michael Klim of Australia, who stole the show with four golds in the Epson World Cup short-course championships in Hong Kong yesterday. Klim, 19, added two gold medals to the pair he won on Saturday as the Australian men outmuscled the Chinese women and headed the medal standings with nine golds to China's seven.

Poll, the Olympic gold medal-winner in the women's 200 metres freestyle, yesterday won the women's 400 metres freestyle for her third gold medal of the meeting. She also collected silver in the 100 metres freestyle, losing out to Nian Yun of China. "I have not competed in the 100 freestyle for two years so I am happy with three gold medals and my times," Poll said.

Klim, a protégé of Gennady Turecki, the Russian who coached Alexander Popov, won the men's 200 metres freestyle and the 100 metres butterfly to complete a clean sweep of the events that he entered.

Mathew Dunn won the men's 200 metres individual medley and Adrian Radley's double in the 50 metres and 200 metres backstroke completed Australia's haul.

Adam Ruckwood, of Great Britain, came third behind Radley in the 200 metres, at which he is the Commonwealth champion, having also taken a bronze medal behind Radley in the 100 metres backstroke on Saturday.

Ian Wilson, who won bronze in the 400 metres freestyle on Saturday, followed up with third place in the 800 metres freestyle yesterday in 7min 54.76sec, 14 seconds adrift of Jorg Hoffmann, of Germany.

Results, page 35

Yates reeling in the years with search for printed perfection

Brian Clarke celebrates the launch of a magazine that breaks the angling mould

To say that Chris Yates lives in a dream world is true in every sense but the pejorative. In the mind of the average coarse angler he lives on Mount Olympus where still lakes slumber and clear streams wind and great fish are landed to an accompaniment of lures.

His reality is not so different. Home is a long, low cottage down Wessex way, where Hampshire and Wiltshire and Dorset meet. Sheep freckle the hill on the other side of the road. The best of the River Avon is a short cast distant. Hidden lakes can be reached with an overhead lob.

It is there that the most hallowed coarse angler in Britain, long-time holder of the carp record and barbel-catcher extraordinary, pursues his dream of the perfect life. The only things that matter to Yates are time with his family and time by the water. Money, which comes from what he can earn with his camera and his pen, scarcely counts beyond the needs of the given day.

Yates made his name by capturing a carp weighing 51lb from Redmire pool in Herefordshire, in 1980. Since then he has been both at the dead centre of angling and serenely outside it. He deplores the high-tech, chest-beating route so much of angling has taken and gets his own fish in a studiously old-fashioned way. He has no electronic gizmos and no carbon-fibre what-nots. Yates uses hand-built, split cane rods and centrepin reels. His stock-in-trade is watercraft and a knowledge of the quarry. He has an instinctive sense of place and time and has created a lifestyle that allows him to act on it.

Most of Yates's non-fishing time in recent years has been devoted to writing. Three of his titles — *Casting At The Sun*, *The Deepening Pool* and *The Secret Carp* — would find their way on to many an all-round angler's list of the finest fishing literature of this century.

Now, though, there is something else on the agenda. Yates

and his friends have long fantasised about the perfect fishing magazine. It would be a magazine reflecting the values of the Golden Scale Club, a group of 21 anglers to which they belong — "people who simply love angling, who reject the new earnestness and technology and who rejoice in the sport's freedom of spirit and traditions". Which is to say old-time, laid-back fun-fishing, some of it serious.

And so Yates has agreed to be co-editor of *Waterlog*, a new bi-monthly angling journal, the first issue of which has just reached the news stands. The magazine is being co-edited and managed by his friend, Jon Ward-Allen, who runs a small specialist publishing business, The Medlar Press. The address for subscription to *Waterlog* is The Grange, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0DE.



Yates has a lifestyle that seems part of an angling idyll

over it to keep the noise down, a pile of paper and a fountain pen. Fishing tackle and old books are all around.

Behind him, though, Yates has a deep knowledge of the past and much goodwill. Together, they have made the first edition of *Waterlog* a diverse and beautiful thing.

Many famous writers, both past and present, are represented. Richard Walker, Bernard Venables, Maurice Ingham and "BB" are all there — every one a magical name for 50-somethings hankering after a golden age of angling that may or may not have been quite as remembered.

More recent names feature. Jeremy Paxman, Tom Fort and Peter Stone among them. Checkov and Chavcer bob up and, given the liberties taken, might well be consulting celestial lawyers right now. There are stories of great fish, small fish, exotic fish, eels. There is much humour, some of it scatty. There is "Mrs Walton's Cookbook" and "A Scientist Writes" column (this issue — "Cyprinid Sensitivity to Wave-Emitting Aubergines"). There is an obituary slot where environmental tragedies and countryside losses are noted. It is an idiosyncratic and engaging mix, much as one might expect of a man who expresses his opinion of carbon-fibre rods by sticking them in the ground and growing beans up them.

The challenge is going to be to add a modicum of ballast to the coverage — the first edition, for all its merits, is a little light — to hold on to the 50-somethings and to find enough 20-somethings, 30-somethings and 40-somethings to attract sales. With *Waterlog*, Yates and his friends have embarked on a courageous experiment that deserves to succeed. In the glass bowl of the publishing world, all manner of fish will be waiting to see if it can. Among them, one suspects, will be the big fish, too.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

NETBALL

Lottery puts England on secure footing

By LOUISE TAYLOR

WITH the England squad ranked in the world's top four, netball falls into the elite category eligible for the maximum grants available under the newly-established National Lottery Sports Fund.

Already, the All-England Netball Association (AENA) has submitted its application for revenue awards for talented individuals and teams as it seeks to improve the country's world ranking and win medals in the world championship.

While individual wing attacks and goal shooters could qualify for subsistence grants of up to £28,000 each, thus enabling them to work part-time rather than full-time — the wider team aid would also allow for the employment of full-time coaches.

Fiona Murtagh, the England captain and a full-time personnel officer in London, said: "Full-time coaches will allow us to compete against Australia and New Zealand [the world's leading netball nations]. They have had full-time coaches for years and it shows: if England players and coaches didn't have to work full-time, it would be another very big incentive to really concentrate on netball. At the moment a lot of good players don't have enough time to work on their game."

Her sentiments are fully endorsed by Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of AENA, who said: "Our long-term goal is to win the 2003 world championships. The netball performance plan we have submitted to the National Lottery Sports Fund outlines the structures we need to put in place to achieve this, along with the procedures and time scale necessary for implementation. We now have a clear vision of the way forward."

Football floating into growth area

With a dozen football clubs on the stock market — and more on the way — the City has worked up to the investment potential in Britain's best loved game. This can be shown by the fact that West Bromwich Albion, one of the portfolio of great underachievers of Midlands football, enjoyed a threefold hike in its share price on its debut on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) on Friday.

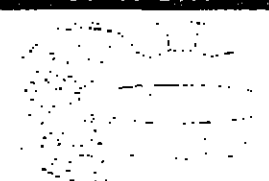
Now Coventry City is set to join the rush with a £30 million float. An analysis of the best performing shares in the United Kingdom over 1996 reveals that football is bringing in the punters. Of the top ten companies showing the biggest gains in the year, three are sport related. Of the top 20, five have sports connections.

There is no surprise that Manchester United is in there. However, its startling rise — which saw the shares increase 241 per cent to 667.5p — only left it twelfth in the league. Martin Edwards, United's chief executive, has been fêted as a leader in the game of football finance, as indeed he is. You cannot fault his decision to turn down a £300 million bid for the club in May when the market value is now £425 million.

Two other football stocks outperformed United. Shares in Celtic, which are traded on the AIM, rose 488 per cent to £385 during the year as investors realised that the company is now well run by Fergus McCann, who made his name selling tights. In the first two trading days of the new year Celtic put on another ten per cent, despite the team being beaten again by Rangers. It was the market's third best performer.

Just below, at seventh, came Caspian, which bought Leeds United for £16.5 million in a controversial deal in which Conrad, which later bought Sheffield United, offered £1.5 million more. At the time, this column said the deal was a steal, and so it has proven. Caspian shares have soared 338 per cent to 45p, despite Caspian's inability to score

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



with its ambitious deals to move into rugby league, ice hockey or basketball. What hope of a repeat performance when the chief executive, Chris Akers, describes Caspian as a "sports media" company and says his favourite team is Boca Juniors?

But the star performer has nothing to do with football — directly. It is Blacks Leisure, the company best known for its camping and hiking goods shops which branched out into the general sports area with the First Sport chain, to cash in on the fantastic growth of sports-related clothing, such as replica football strips and training shoes.

Also enjoying this market were JJB Sports and JD Sports, both strong performers, and Hay & Robertson, the owners of the former England strip-makers, Admiral. On the back of a deal to develop a Rudd Gullit clothing range, Hay's shares rose 201 per cent to 132.5p, the market's nineteenth best performer. But Blacks outstripped them all, scoring a fantastic 680 per cent gain to end the year at 386.5p.

However, as the market often proves, shares can go down as well as up. The worst performing share of all was also in the sports arena. It is called Clubpartners, an investment company set up to develop golf clubs. Having suffered a spectacular 91.9 per cent drop in its price to a mere 2.5p during 1996, shareholders' eyes lit up at the prospect of a takeover bid for the company. Alas, an announcement that the bid would value Clubpartners in the region of a penny a share ruined everyone's new year.

JASON NISSE

RACING

BBC must heed warning signals sounded by poll

It would be easy to dismiss the debate about the merits and faults of Channel 4 and BBC television's coverage of racing as nothing more than a silly season story. Easy, but wrong.

When the concerns of racecourses covered by the BBC were reported in these columns a month ago they struck a chord with readers. More of you put pen to paper to express your views, compared with any other racing issue in recent months. Similarly, the response by readers of *The Sporting Life* to a detailed questionnaire about television coverage, published here on Saturday, was far larger than normal.

The conclusions make stark reading for Jonathan Martin, head of BBC Sport, and Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC television, who happens to be an avid racing enthusiast. No amount of fudging about size of audiences from PR men can obscure the facts. Three out of four people prefer Channel 4's coverage — and most of their presenters.

The public's view also has worrying implications for racing, which were touched upon, perhaps inadvertently, by Peter Scudamore last week when he wrote about his wishes for 1997. The former champion jockey, who has not sparked as a BBC pundit, hoped that "despite recent criticism, the BBC maintains its coverage of racing."

The implication some observers within the television industry drew from that remark was that the BBC might not maintain its coverage. Now, I am pretty sure Scud did not intend to convey that impression, but a combination of increased competition between racecourses, more television channels and the legitimate demands of race

sponsors could raise that spectre before long — which would be a disaster for racing. What- ever the faults of the BBC, the coverage of racing by a leading terrestrial channel is crucial to the sport.

Nevertheless, the danger signals exist. Racecourses covered by the BBC are already unhappy with the restrictions placed on sponsors of races compared with the way commercial backers of other sports are treated by the corporation's cameras. That dissatisfaction could intensify in the future as the tracks are

RICHARD EVANS



Racing Commentary

forced to become more competitive.

If, as I suspect, the squeeze on racing's finances increases, it will not be long before racecourses have to compete for levy funding. Nothing wrong with that but to be successful tracks will have to provide the best product to attract sponsors and satisfy customers — including those in betting shops and at home. If television coverage, regarded as old fashioned, stuffy or

rushed by viewers, hinders racecourses from providing that product, they may be forced to switch to Channel 4, Sky, the Racing Channel or the outlets offered by digital television.

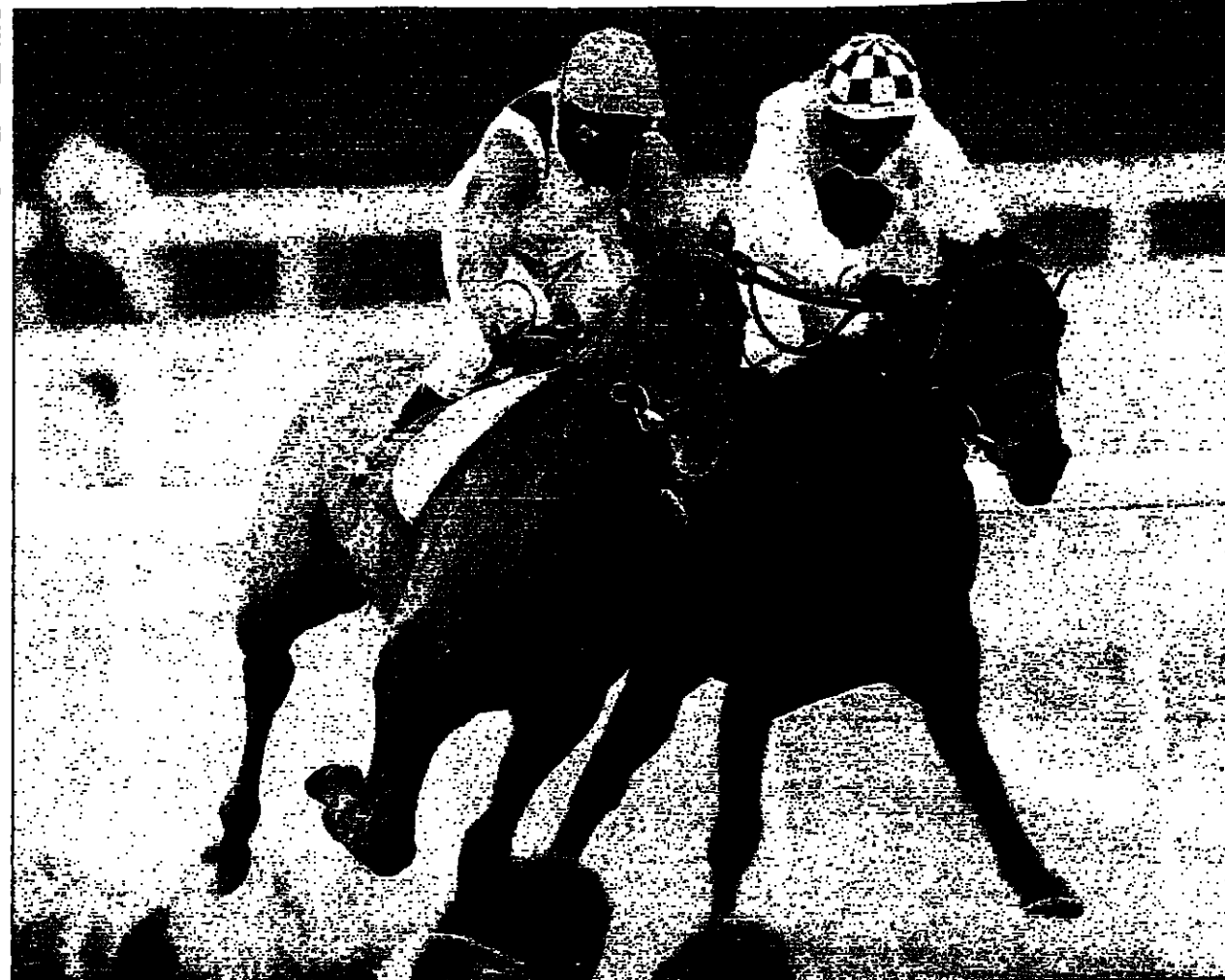
Such a scenario would hardly be welcome news for the BBC, which has not fared well in the battle with ITV and satellite television for big sports events. If nothing else, the loss of racing would leave a gaping hole in its Saturday afternoon sports schedule, particularly in the winter.

All of which begs the question: what will the BBC do? My guess is nothing. I recall asking Jonathan Martin in the late 1980s what difference satellite television would make to BBC's coverage of sport. "Little or no difference, we are the BBC," he responded. Leopards do not change their spots.

What should the BBC do? The first essential is to separate the presentation of its racing coverage from editorial control. BBC desperately needs an equivalent to Andrew Franklin, the producer of Channel 4 Racing, who can introduce new ideas, experiment with new faces and is permanently looking to improve output.

In the past week alone, Channel 4 has made progress in placing mini-cameras in jockeys' helmets at the Derby, and conducting an American-style interview on horseback with the winning jockey as he returns to the winner's enclosure. What innovations have the BBC introduced in the past five years?

Having already been crossed off Messrs Wilson and Lindley's Christmas card list, I had better be careful now. Suffice to say that readers and viewers clearly believe there is a need for new talent to help present BBC racing. And you cannot be wrong, can you?



Steamroller Stanley (right) wins a thrilling duel with General Haven on the Lingfield Equitrac on Saturday

Ladbroke raiders lack fitness edge

By JULIAN MUSCAT

CONTINUING adverse weather seems certain to compromise the assault by Britain on the Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown on Saturday. Although strong numerically, none among seven challengers engaged in the £60,000-added contest is expected to be at peak fitness.

Mary Reveley, the Saltham-based trainer, plans to saddle Penny A Day, Executive Design and Express Gift but admitted yesterday that each horse could not be at its best. "We have managed adequately through the last two weeks," she said. "It has not been as bad here as elsewhere, but we have not been able to do the fast work we'd have liked. We won't get much chance to do that between now and Saturday."

Mrs Reveley identified Penny A Day, 8-1 second favourite with the sponsors behind 9-2 Khayrawani, as her best prospect to end Britain's ten-year drought in the two-mile handicap. Even then, however, she hardly expected confidence. "It was extortionate for the

handicapper to raise him 9lb for his last victory, when he beat a maiden at Wetherby," she said. "On top of that, the Irish handicapper seems to have raised him by a further 2lb."

Leopardstown is the only realistic venue for jumps racing this week. The Ladbroke has never been lost to inclement weather and the course was raceable on Saturday. Midlands-based Andy Streeter has long had the race in mind for Centaur Express, the winner of both his starts this season. Streeter will gallop him on Wolverhampton's Fibressand today and again on Wednesday, but he said: "My horse likes easy ground and we would jump him up if working any faster than three-quarters speed."

"All the British horses are in the same boat," Streeter continued, "so we'll take our chance and see what happens." Kaitak is committed to the trip but decisions on Master Tribe and Palacegate King are expected later this week. The quartet, all bracketed on 9-10lb, will have to compete from 4lb out of the handicap as Urubande, top-weighted

with 12 stone, is expected to take his chance.

Mysliv never won a Ladbroke but her gallant second in the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham in March underlined her tremendous determination. It came as a cruel blow to her connections, Elite Racing Club, and her trainer, Charlie Egerton, when she was humanely destroyed after fracturing her pelvis on the gallops on Saturday.

"The whole yard is devastated," Egerton said of the Triumph Hurdle and Tote Gold Trophy Hurdle winner. "I will never have the opportunity of training a braver mare. It was a privilege to be associated with her."

Channel 4 Racing, which broadcast the all-weather meeting at Lingfield on Saturday, may repeat the exercise if the weather scuppers its projected coverage at Warwick on Saturday. "I understand an extra fixture may be scheduled at Wolverhampton, so we will be close enough to divert our cameras," Andrew Franklin, the programme's producer, said yesterday.

Albaha can collect another dividend

By JULIAN MUSCAT

THE fact that Woodman has sired some big achievers on North American dirt tracks may have some relevance to the chances of his son, Albaha, in the Kildare Handicap (1.45) at Southwell today.

Disappointing when trained by Robert Armstrong last season, Albaha came good with a vengeance when dispatched to Southwell for his all-weather debut. It was, admittedly, only a poor maiden, but he managed to prevail by 17 lengths. After that encouraging start, the four-year-old looks an intriguing prospect in this much stronger race.

Direct comparisons are often misleading, but Albaha concluded an uneven first campaign on a rating of 73. He then failed to start on his hurdles debut before the weather closed in. Loosed instead at this venue, he duly romped to victory, yet he competes here off a rating of 71. Jimmy Quinn again takes the ride and Albaha can collect another dividend.

David Nicholls, a dab hand at improving moderate horses, can demonstrate the point with *Point It Black* in the Wicklow Handicap (2.45) over seven furlongs. Formerly with Richard Hannon, Point It

Black limbered up for this when a respectable fourth over course and distance five days ago. He should be sharper for that, his first outing in nine weeks. Nicholls also saddles Sense Of Priority but this one has been inactive for five months.

The opening leg of the Tipperary Apprentices' Handicap (12.45) should fall to Broughton's Pride, who closed the turf season with three solid efforts. The mare

hails from a stable with few rivals at this code. She could hardly have been found a more favourable opportunity and should prove hard to beat. A fractured left knee may force Allan Mackay to miss the start of the turf season in March. Mackay was thrown from his mount, Warm Hearted, before the Manny Bernstein Claiming Stakes at Wolverhampton on Saturday.

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: Broughton's Pride (12.45 Southwell)
Next best: Plum First (2.45 Southwell)

Outlook poor unless thaw comes soon

PROSPECTS for the resumption of turf racing this week are poor unless a significant thaw takes place in the next two days. The scheduled meeting at Folkestone today was abandoned at lunchtime on Saturday and Leicester, due to race tomorrow, became the 52nd abandonment of the jumps season after a 3.30pm inspection yesterday.

David Hanson, the assistant clerk of the course at Leicester, said yesterday: "There is snow on the course and frost in the ground."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

PROSPECTS
TOMORROW'S MEETINGS
LINGFIELD PARK: ABANDONED
LEICESTER: ABANDONED
WEDNESDAY
PLUMPTON: FROZEN
KELSO: SNOW

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Lingfield Park
Going: standard
12.15 (6) 1. Impetuous (N. Clark, 7-1), 2. High Magic (4-1), 3. General (6-1), 4. 11-11 (11-1), 5. G. L. Moore (11-1), 6. G. L. Moore (11-1), 7. G. L. Moore (11-1), 8. G. L. Moore (11-1), 9. G. L. Moore (11-1), 10. G. L. Moore (11-1), 11. G. L. Moore (11-1), 12. G. L. Moore (11-1), 13. G. L. Moore (11-1), 14. G. L. Moore (11-1), 15. G. L. Moore (11-1), 16. G. L. Moore (11-1), 17. G. L. Moore (11-1), 18. G. L. Moore (11-1), 19. G. L. Moore (11-1), 20. G. L. Moore (11-1), 21. G. L. Moore (11-1), 22. G. L. Moore (11-1), 23. G. L. Moore (11-1), 24. G. L. Moore (11-1), 25. G. L. Moore (11-1), 26. G. L. Moore (11-1), 27. G. L. Moore (11-1), 28. G. L. Moore (11-1), 29. G. L. Moore (11-1), 30. G. L. Moore (11-1), 31. G. L. Moore (11-1), 32. G. L. Moore (11-1), 33. G. L. Moore (11-1), 34. G. L. Moore (11-1), 35. G. L. Moore (11-1), 36. G. L. Moore (11-1), 37. G. L. Moore (11-1), 38. G. L. Moore (11-1), 39. G. L. Moore (11-1), 40. G. L. Moore (11-1), 41. G. L. Moore (11-1), 42. G. L. 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Prestigious international event opens a busy new year programme

Baricchi and Barry bid for glory

By RUTH GLEDHILL

IF ANYONE is ever to topple Marcus and Karen Hilton, of Rochdale, from their pinnacle as reigning, seven-times undefeated world professional ballroom champions, it will be Luca Baricchi and Lorraine Barry, from East Molesey, in Surrey. Baricchi and his feisty Irish-born partner, who has a reputation as one of the best women dancers ever, will be out to impress the judges at the first important international contest of the year, the Star Ball in London on Wednesday.

The Star Ball, organised by the Ballroom Dancers' Federation, has attracted couples from countries around the world, including from Japan, two from Denmark and one from Ukraine. Its importance lies in its prestige as one of the oldest dance championships in the world, and as the new year's debut competition.

Although the Hiltons will not be dancing at the Star, this contest will nevertheless be a guide to form for the United Kingdom Open championships at Bournemouth later this month, where the top two English couples will go on to represent their country at the world championships at Blackpool in November.

The Hiltons are dancing at the UK and Baricchi, who in previous competitions has been one mark short of taking the tango from the Hiltons, is hoping to build on inroads he has also made into their foxtro, waltz, quickstep and Viennese waltz.

But at the Star, Baricchi will be facing a strong challenge from England's third-ranked couple, Andrew Sinkinson and Adele Preston, who won the closed British championship last November. Baricchi, a tall, dark-haired, Italian, whose aloof demeanour and presence render him unmissable on the floor, is known for the quality of his tango, which has elements of the Argentinian style with swivels and plenty of "atmosphere". His foxtro is considered particularly strong.

Barry, whose younger sister, Michelle, is also a top amateur competitor, remained serenely confident about her chances this week. They had been practising hard, she said, and had the Hiltons in their sights, although the rivalry between the two couples is friendly.

"We are pretty confident of maintaining our position, if not bettering it. If I wasn't, I might as well give up. I have got to convince myself and all those 11 judges." The judges will be chaired by Bob Burgess of Dulwich and include Richard Gleave, Peter Eggleton and Len Armstrong, all former champions.

Sinkinson, who once danced with Barry and who, with her, was for three years undefeated world and British amateur champion, partnered up with Preston more than 12 months ago after winning the Star in 1994 with another partner, Amanda Owen. On Wednesday, the stylish Owen will be aiming for a good result with her new partner, Tony Dokman.

The Star will be the first of a series of big championships this year, including the UK, where Sinkinson and Preston will not be looking back, but instead will throw down the gauntlet to those ahead of them.

"As a new partnership it takes time to find that blend with one another," Sinkinson, a flowing dancer who is known particularly for elegance of his foxtro and his innovative style across all five modern dances, said. "But steadily, we feel as though we have been experiencing a great deal of improvement. The other couples have had longer with each other, and have better communication."

High hopes have been expressed for him and Preston in the dance world but he remained cool. "I have been competing for 25 years, since I was eight years old, week in, week out. Therefore I don't really feel any kind of pressure. I know what I have to do."

The championship marks the competitive comeback of Norway's top couple, the stunning Kim and Cecilie Rygel. Kim was put out of action by a serious knee injury sustained during the International in London last October but after surgery has been demonstrating in Japan.

The absence of the Hiltons and at least two other top professional couples from the 36 entries in the professional, modern, or "standard" championship this year, leaves openings for rising challengers.



Baricchi, aloof, and his partner, Barry, said to be one of the finest women dancers ever

RFU advancing proposals for structural change

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union has not been seen in the best of lights during its struggle to cope with the change from an amateur to an open game. Division and discord have choked the last year yet behind the public and sometimes unloved facade of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), life goes on.

There are more than 2,000 clubs, more than 3,000 schools affiliated to the RFU and in the course of nearly two years' study, an RFU working party on youth rugby came across a tale to set against the posturing of rugby at the senior end of the game.

They interviewed a boy from a broken home who discovered mini-rugby at school; the game became a natural outlet, his skills developed and even though he later attended a large comprehensive school where rugby was not played, he represented both his county and his country.

Though he dropped out for a period, his interest was rekindled during sixth-form education and he visited New Zealand with an England 18-group tour party where he roomed with a boy from a public school. The motivation he derived prompted him to take A levels externally and he is now at university. Robert Horner, who chaired the working party, said: "He freely admits that, had it not been for rugby, he might have found his way to jail instead."

The young man's message to the working party was simple: "There are lots of guys like me out there, go and get them." It is a message the RFU, like so many missionaries, is anxious to put across but the thrust of the working party's findings was of a game in sore need of rationalisation at junior level.

In particular, they found that the regime of colts rugby put in place a generation ago for teenagers who had left full-time education is no longer apposite. Clubs and schools have become rivals for the same players, more of whom remain at school rather than seeking jobs at 16 as they once did. This has provoked some thorny debate, various colts bodies insisting that no modification is required.

The RFU, democratic to a fault, circulated revisions to its original recommendations and each of the 21 constituent bodies, the

counties, are due to report back by March 1. The authors of the report hope that it will have been implemented in full by 1998-9. "We were concerned at the demands imposed on the talented 16 to 19-year-olds," Horner said. One interviewee had played 87 games during his first year out of school, another had been selected for five representative teams in ten days. Boys are being pulled this way and that when they should be concentrating on honing the skills which, elsewhere in the world, take 20-year-olds straight into senior national XV's.

It was also apparent that the many clubs who took on the responsibility of offering rugby as it dried up in the state schools during the 1970s and 1980s were ill-equipped to do so.

"The clubs are getting better at handling the task they took up," Horner said, "and the youth development officers (funded by local authorities and the RFU) welcome the challenge of contributing towards a national team of 18-year-olds which has not come through the schools." The RFU's answer is an administrative restructuring of the National Lottery and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, so that there will be a clear path for promising young players to follow.

The target will be a new level of England rugby: an under-19 XV (equivalent teams already exist in the other home unions and on the Continent) into which both national schools and national youth teams will feed — rather than, as happens now, England 18-group schoolboys funneling into the national colts teams.

The RFU seek a register of those involved in mini and mid-rugby (from seven years old and upwards), greater support for the Rugby Football Union for Women and greater liaison between clubs and schools.

This is the other side of the RFU's quest for more money which has brought down upon their heads the wrath of their colleagues in Scotland, Ireland and Wales. But the RFU's second aim (development is one which has aroused the admiration of other sporting bodies and which, for the good of the game at large, they must sustain).



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Clockwise from left: Conference folder, cheque book holder, travel wallet, wallet, credit card holder and business card holder. Additional items featured in photograph not included.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I like the paradox on this hand. If East decides to defend Six Hearts because he holds the king of that suit, to beat the contract he has to throw it away at trick two.

Dealer East North-South game Rubber bridge

♠ A 4 10 3 2 ♠ A 4 10 3 2
♥ K Q 10 5 3 ♥ K 4
♦ 7 3 2 ♦ 7 3 2
♣ 9 3 2 ♣ 9 3 2

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: king of spades

North's Two Spades showed a strong red two-suiter. As the auction went, it is close whether East should pass Six Hearts. When this hand came up at TGR's, East bid Seven Clubs over Six Hearts. That's a reasonable view — it looks as though he will go four off with 150 honours for a penalty of 550 to North-South. If North-South make Six Hearts a little over 40 per cent of the time, the sacrifice gains.

Say East decides to pass Six Hearts, as in the auction above, on the basis that the king of hearts is an almost certain trick, and there may well be another trick in the wash. Declarer wins the spade lead in dummy and lays down the ace of hearts. How should East defend? The danger is that declarer can get all his spades away on diamonds: if

East plays low on the ace of hearts, when he gets in with the king of hearts he won't have a spade to play. I think East should find the winning play — throwing his king of hearts under the ace, in the hope that his partner has the queen. There is little chance of breaking the contract if South has the queen.

Several current world champions are among the 16 pairs who will be playing in the Macallan International Pairs 1997 (January 22 to 24), at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1. You can watch at the tables or in the Viewgraph theatre. Information: 0181-878 5844.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hebden leads

With one round to go in the Hastings Premier tournament, the UK's strongest international chess competition, the lead has been seized in dramatic fashion by grandmaster Mark Hebden, who topped the previous front-runner, grandmaster John Nunn in the eighth round. Hebden gradually outplayed Nunn, won a pawn and forced resignation on the 38th move.

White: Mark Hebden
Black: John Nunn
Hastings, January 1997

Queen's Pawn Opening

1 d4 Nf6
2 Nc3 g6
3 Nd3 Bg7
4 Bf4 O-O
5 e3 c5
6 Be2 c4
7 Ne5 Nc6
8 O-O Qc7
9 e4 Qb6
10 Nxd4 Qc5
11 Nf4 Qd5
12 c3 Nc7
13 B4 Qd7
14 Qc2 e5
15 Bxe5 Bxh6
16 Qd6 Rf8
17 Rf1 Rf5
18 dxe5 Rxe5
19 Qd2 a5
20 Bf1 a4
21 e5 Qe6
22 Bxe5 Nxe5
23 Rf1 Qf7
24 Nc5 Bc7
25 a3 d4
26 N4 Nc7
27 Nxd7 Bxd7
28 Rf5 c5
29 Bf5 Bc6
30 Rf5 c4
31 Bxd3 Qd1
32 Bf1 Qxa3
33 Qd4+ K6

Scores at Hastings with one round to go are: Hebden 6; Nunn 5; Rozentalis 5; Lalic and Movsesian 4; Adams and Xie Jun 3; Conquest 3; Motwani 2; Fear 2.

Chess for charity

The simultaneous display, whereby a master or grandmaster takes on numerous opponents at one and the same time is a powerful tool for raising funds for charitable purposes. On Saturday March 22, I will take on all-comers in a simultaneous, to take place in the boardroom of St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The goal is to raise funds for the St George's Hospital Hold My Hand appeal, which aims to raise £1 million for their Children's Intensive Care Unit. Details and entry forms are available from Lucy de Ville. The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital (tel: 0181-725 5096).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

VALANCE
a. Bravery
b. A cavalry spear
c. A drupe

WEANIE
a. A baby
b. The little finger
c. None

WORT
a. Grain sauce
b. To grumble
c. The sap of the oak

VUM
a. A handguard
b. To loiter suspiciously
c. To swear

Answers on page 40

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Rigo — Sipi, Hungary 1907. Here the two players are attacking on opposite sides of the board, but White's attack is the more relevant as he has already broken through to Black's king. How did he now finish off?

Solution on page 40

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

ENJOY 6 FREE DAYS AT A HEALTH CLUB

Plus annual memberships worth £40,000 to be won

To coincide with the launch of our Discovery Diet Guide, which starts today on pages 10 to 13, *The Times* has teamed up with LivingWell and other leading health clubs to offer you up to six free visits to any of the 110 participating clubs listed right.

The offer allows you to use the same facilities at the health clubs as those enjoyed by full members. It includes workouts in the gym, use of the sauna and steam room, various aerobics classes or a swim in the pool.

In addition to sampling a health club free for up to six days, readers who take up this offer will be entered into a prize draw offering the chance to win an annual health club membership to your chosen club.

There is £40,000 of memberships to be won.

To take up this offer simply present the voucher, below right, at your chosen health club when you turn up for your pre-booked visit. By collecting all six vouchers appearing this week you can enjoy six free visits.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The offer is valid until February 28, 1997. 2. Your free visit(s) must be booked in advance by telephone quoting *The Times* offer. 3. The printed voucher(s) must be presented to the club when you make your visit(s). 4. Each voucher is only valid for one free visit. 5. A maximum of six free visits are allowed per reader. 6. No photocopies will be accepted. 7. The offer is subject to availability. 8. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 9. There may be additional charges if you wish to book beauty treatments. 10. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking.



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This voucher entitles the bearer to a free day's membership at one of the health clubs listed in *The Times* on January 6 and 11, 1997. This voucher also acts as a prize draw entry coupon for the chance to win a free membership for a year to the winner's chosen health club. There are annual memberships worth a total of £40,000 to be won. The offer is valid until Friday February 28, 1997. This date is also the closing date for entry to the prize draw.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 The offer is subject to availability. 2 Readers must book their visits in advance by telephone and state that they are using *The Times* offer. 3 This voucher must be presented when you turn up on the day. 4 The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 5 There will be additional charges for therapies. Please check what is included in the offer at the time of booking.

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CHANGING TIMES

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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هكذا من الأصل

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Anxious wait for festive figures



Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, will be the centre of attention as the electrical goods retailer reveals how it performed over Christmas

TODAY

Interim: none scheduled.
Finals: AG Barr, Treant.
Economic statistics: UK December provisional GDP and circulation of notes and coins, US November housing completions, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, Tokyo markets close early.

TOMORROW

Interim: Deepak, Universal Salvage, Finlay, Garfield Whalley & Barker, Eoswara.
Economic statistics: US November factory orders, Bundesbank calls for repos, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, US Federal Reserve releases revised industrial output data, for 1996, API weekly oil supply statistics.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Dixons, Dixons.
Robert H Lowe, M&W.
Economic statistics: US November consumer credit, Bundesbank awards repos.

THURSDAY

Interim: Abbey, Druck Holdings, Goode Durant, Jura Holdings Group, Finlay, Brunner Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: UK November housing starts, UK Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders December new car registrations, German December unemployment, US weekly jobless claims, US November wholesale inventories, US December producer prices, Bundesbank central council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interim: Crown Eyeglass, Finals: BZW Commodities, Trust, Economic statistics: US December durable goods, UK December producer prices, UK November industrial manufacturing output, US December non-farm payrolls, US December unemployment rate.

AFTER Christmas, both the stock market and economic policymakers will be anxious to get the festive period behind them. Did prosperity finally break out in a consumer spree, as the record consumer credit rise reported on Friday suggests, or was it, as some grassroots reports imply, a fairly average Christmas, and new year for most retailers?

The results of the CBI's distributive trades survey for December will be published in Friday morning's newspapers. However, more attention will be paid to the individual experience of big retail chains as they issue trading statements. Boots, Next, Argos, Lloyds Chemists and Sainsbury are among those expected to reveal all this week.

Most interest will focus on Dixons, the top electrical goods retailer whose fortunes ride strongly on the Christmas season. Dixons is the largest trading group scheduled to report profits formally this week, with AG Barr, the soft drinks group, a distant second.

On Wednesday, Sir Stanley Kalms, the creator and chairman of Dixons, will report on first-half earnings to November 9. City forecasts range from £52 million to £59 million pre-tax, well up on £37.5 million a year ago but a little less than estimates a few months ago. The full year to April 30 could deliver £190 million, up from a reported £101.5 million and underlying £135 million last year.

However, the group's comments on peak-season trading will doubtless have analysts adjusting their full-year forecasts. Next year, Dixons faces full VAT on its lucrative warranty business. Mean-

while, UBS was looking for the interim dividend to rise from 2.05p to 2.25p net on the way to a full-year 11p (8.75p).

Before that, Monday should provide a more general indication of spending in the form of new December figures for M&S, the cash measure of money supply, and for the note and coin issue alone.

Union Discount expects a 0.6 per cent rise in the seasonally adjusted December figure. This would give an annual rise of 6.9 per cent, down from 7.4 per cent a month ago because a sharp rise a year ago goes out of the reckoning. That is also the median forecast collected by MMS International, but MMS itself expects a 1.2 per cent December rise to give a

year-on-year 7.6 per cent. Even if the annual figure is down, it would be worrying for future inflation if special factors were not again called in to explain away the high growth rate. Union expects annual inflation of 7.5 per cent

in notes and coin outstanding (up from 7.4 per cent after a 0.9 per cent rise in December). Unlike the retail trends, these money figures do not usually feature prominently in the Chancellor's monthly interest rate discussions with the

Governor of the Bank of England, due on January 15. Their meeting will, however, take note of the trend of industrial production and especially manufacturing output, which have been decidedly dull of late.

Forecasts for industrial output suggest it rose between 0.3 and 0.8 per cent in November, the median 0.5 per cent giving annual growth of just 1.3 per cent. The expected 0.3 per cent rise in manufacturing, median of only 0.9 per cent. This is in part blamed on the rising pound, so policymakers will be wary of raising interest rates sooner than necessary.

On nervous foreign exchanges, however, button-

pressing fingers will be waiting for a clutch of American economic signals to see how they match up against market expectations. These include November factory orders on Monday (median forecast is for a 0.5 per cent drop) and consumer credit on Tuesday (forecast to rise \$3.5 billion).

On Wednesday look for a 0.3 per cent rise in December producer prices and a lower 350,000 new unemployment claims. On Friday, most sensibly, December US non-farm payrolls are expected to have risen by 175,000, the unemployment rate to have edged down from 5.4 to 5.3 per cent and hourly earnings to have risen 0.2 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Northern Petroleum, T&N, Fairway Group, Hogg Robinson, Tunstall. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Fairway, Kwik-Fit, Taylor Nelson AGS, Scottish Radio Holdings, Hambros Insurance Services, Crown Eyeglass.

Independent on Sunday: Buy SIG Group, Enterprise Oil (switch from Lamsol), Calluna, Sell Northern Leisure. The Mail on Sunday: Buy European Telecom, Waterfall Holdings, News of the World, Buy Safeway, Logica, Whitbread, Berkeley.

Irish plan statutory panel for takeovers

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE UK Takeover Panel is set to relinquish this year the regulation of 60 Irish companies listed on the London Stock Exchange.

Companies such as the Bank of Ireland, CRH, the building materials group and Smurfit, the paper and packaging manufacturer, are expected to come under the remit of a new statutory body to be headed by Leo Conway, former head of corporate finance at Ulster Bank.

Legislation has been laid before the Dail, the Republic's parliament. The new panel is intended to regulate takeovers and mergers in 90 companies with a combined market capitalisation of £21 billion.

Its statutory powers have raised concerns that it will open corporate actions to litigation, making bids lengthier and more expensive. But Kevin McHugh, head of regulation at the Irish Stock Exchange, said the current appeals procedure already provided potential legal obstacles, and statutory backing was essential to give the new panel teeth. The City panel's sanction of blacklisting companies would not work in the smaller Irish market, he said.

The UK Takeover Panel is trying to defend its voluntary regime, but the European Parliament is poised to pass a compulsory directive this month.

The new Irish body will be separate from the Irish Stock Exchange, although it will have a stock exchange representative on its board, alongside members from bodies such as the Association of Investment Managers and the Law Society.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

GB Railways makes debut

By FRASER NELSON

GB RAILWAYS, which yesterday started running the Anglia rail franchise, joins the Alternative Investment Market today, valued at £3.75 million.

While the firm was a shell until yesterday it has succeeded in raising £6.3 million from placing 80 per cent of its shares with institutions at 100p apiece. The shares are expected to attract an instant premium of 50p each, according to traders from Winter-

flood Securities. Steadier market conditions are coaxing back companies that put off flotation plans after December's mini-crash. Acute, a marketing services company, is expected to be valued at £3.5 million when it joins AIM this month.

VFG, which rents film equipment, is likely to be valued at £7 million on flotation, after raising £3 million to buy 30 more cameras at £80,000 each.

JSB, whose computer program *Surf Control* aims to stop workers spending too much time browsing through the Internet, is raising £5 million from a placing which values the firm at £15 million. It plans to use the money to take its software to America.

A more unusual stock is Inner City Enterprise, a consultancy that advises councils how to regenerate city centres. Tether & Greenwood, its nominated adviser, is looking

to fetch a £5 million price tag for the firm.

As trading warmed up again after the holidays, the FT-SE AIM index closed the week at 1,040.50, up 8.9 points.

A few stocks are beginning to be affected by uncertainty surrounding the London Stock Exchange's disciplinary review of AIM. While the decisions are expected to be made this month, the results are unlikely to be known until August.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		High Interest Cheque Account	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£100,000+	5.40	4.32	5.27	4.27	£50,000+	2.25	1.20
£ 50,000+	5.00	4.00	4.89	3.91	£25,000+	2.10	1.08
£ 25,000+	4.65	3.72	4.55	3.64	£10,000+	2.00	1.00
£ 10,000+	4.30	3.44	4.22	3.38	£ 5,000+	1.50	1.20
Below £10,000	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.40	Below £5,000	1.00	0.80

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option		1618 Account, Headway and Young Savers	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£25,000+	3.55	2.84	3.49	2.79	£500+	2.15	1.72
£10,000+	3.25	2.60	3.20	2.56	£250+	2.00	1.60
£ 5,000+	2.95	2.36	2.91	2.33	£100+	1.75	1.10
Below £5,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40	£ 50+	1.25	1.00
					Below £50	1.00	0.80

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option		Asset Management Service Investment Account	Gross %	Net %
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %			
£25,000+	3.50	2.80	3.45	2.76	£100,000+	5.27	4.22
£10,000+	3.15	2.52	3.11	2.49	£ 50,000+	4.89	3.91
£ 5,000+	2.70	2.16	2.67	2.14	£ 25,000+	4.55	3.64
£ 500+	2.35	1.88	2.33	1.86	£10,000+	4.22	3.38
Below £500	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40	Below £10,000	2.33	1.86

Deposit Account	Half-yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£1+	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.20

Interest rates may vary from time to time. The notice lists current rates.
GROSS - The annual interest rate before deduction of tax (where applicable).
NET - The annual interest rate after deduction of tax at the appropriate rate; this is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.
TAX-FREE - The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.
Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 6 January 1997

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Happy times for Gerald Levin, second right, with Ted Turner, second left, at a CNN launch last month, but some analysts think his job is at risk

Blood flows in Tinseltown massacre of studio moguls

Richard Thomson relates a real-life saga of money, power and betrayal

The body count was higher than in a Stallone movie and the plot more tortuous than a spy thriller. Real life in Hollywood's boardrooms over the past 12 months has put most of Tinseltown's fictional storylines to shame with money, power and betrayal emerging as the dominant themes.

As films grow ever more expensive — \$80-\$100 million or more is the going cost of a blockbuster — and as film companies become conglomerates, the demands on top executives seem to be more than many can bear. To keep their jobs they have to be expert businessmen, creative artists, and good corporate greasy-pole climbers in what is, at best, a cut-throat environment.

The downfall of Michael Ovitz neatly illustrates the point. Once known as the most powerful man in Hollywood as head of the Creative Artists Agency and general deal broker, he failed completely to fit into the corporate culture of Walt Disney where he went as president only 14 months ago.

His old job depended on a flair for schmoozing, on projecting a certain style, and knowing all the right people. At Disney he upset powerful colleagues by commandeering an office supposedly the size of a football pitch and keeping limousines waiting outside just in case he needed them. This behaviour did not fit his new role. Under the autocratic control of its chairman, Michael Eisner, Disney has become an entertainment monolith over the past ten years. It is Big Business — its corporate style is closer to IBM or Exxon than the small creative venture that Disney was a few years ago. Within months of Mr Ovitz's arrival his "best friend", Mr Eisner, realised that he was not making the grade as a Disney corporate man and began ruthlessly levering him out. Although Mr Ovitz leaves with a payoff said to be around \$90 million, he achieved little and his job prospects now appear much less rosy.

One place he will probably not be going is Sony's US entertainment arm, where the bloodletting this year was spectacular as the Japanese finally took a machete to their disastrous investment in Columbia TriStar, the film studios. By giving bad management free rein for years, Sony has lost around \$5 billion in the studios and has produced an impressive number of box office flops. *Cable Guy* (for which Jim Carey was paid \$20 million), *The Fan* (with Robert de Niro) and *Multiplicity* all bombed expensively in 1996, and Nobuyuki Idei, Sony's president, finally decided to clean house.

During the summer the heads of Columbia and TriStar, as well as top creative and marketing executives and Michael Schulhoff, chairman of Sony Entertainment in the US, lost their

jobs. The last to go was Alan Levine, head of Sony's Hollywood venture, to be replaced by John Calley, a film veteran with a string of hits to his name. The big question in Tinseltown now is whether Sony will float or sell its studios. It could take several years to get them back into financial shape but Mr Idei may get rid of them sooner.

Meanwhile, Time Warner struggled to recover from the firing of three successive heads of its music division in 1995, followed by the management disruption of merging with Turner Broadcasting System this year. It is another conglomerate struggling to pull its disparate parts together and impress a distinctly sceptical stock market that it knows where it is going. Many analysts believe Gerald Levin, its chairman, may be the next to go.

Another high-profile victim was Frank Biondi, head of Viacom. The issue again was corporate performance, with the volatile Summer Redstone, who controls Viacom, claiming Mr Biondi did not have the drive to revive the company's flagging profits. The sacking shocked the media industry since the two men were thought to be close friends. But Mr Biondi walked away with a \$20 million payoff and took the top job at MCA, the studio owned by Seagram, for a reported salary of \$75 million over five years.

Part of the problem in Hollywood is the intense competition for audiences and the glut of new films that regularly flood the cinemas at certain times of the year. An expensive film that flops or simply underperforms expectations can deliver a staggering blow to a studio's finances, putting its executives under intense pressure. Several studios have recently vowed to reduce their production and cut the costs of filmmaking but none has so far lived up to its words.

This is the backdrop to the launch of DreamWorks, the company started by Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg (Bill Gates is also involved as an investor). To Hollywood's surprise, DreamWorks has produced very little except a few television shows. Observers say that its failure to make a splash with a big film or an animation may mean that it is faltering in the highly competitive movie market. If it is, it may mean the fall of three more stars of the Hollywood business firmament.

After the chaos of 1996 it might be reasonable to expect the next 12 months to be less fraught for Hollywood's bosses. Yet the financial problems that they face are not going to vanish and it is never wise to underestimate Hollywood's ability to come up with unexpected plot twists. The only thing that seems certain is that those who lose their jobs will still end up as multimillionaires.



Michael Eisner, left, and Michael Ovitz at the Disney studios

Racial equality 'will help UK to compete'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders are joining the Government in a new initiative on racial equality — and they will insist jointly that greater equality will give British companies a competitive advantage in world markets.

Gillian Shephard, Employment and Education Secretary, will join Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, in announcing the initiative, together with Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality. Building on a long-term campaign by the CRE, they will set out the business case for racial equality in employment.

ment, including how best to develop equality policies on race for the millennium and beyond.

At a conference this month, ministers and business leaders will accept that there is some way to go before members of ethnic minorities are fully represented at every level across all sectors of business.

The Government will emphasise that Britain's ethnic minorities form a "significant and increasing" proportion of the UK's working population, as well as representing a growing and important consumer market that

employers cannot afford to ignore. Mrs Shephard said: "We will be putting the case to business leaders that racial equality of opportunity in employment is central to good business and management practice, not simply because it is fair but also because it makes good business sense... The business necessity for racial equality in employment is clear."

Mr Ouseley said: "Companies are beginning to recognise the benefits of racial equality at work, and the equal opportunity policies which are a key to achieving diversity."

Foreign legion marches in to slay dragons of Welsh economy

Iola Smith on how Wales bucked trend of decline in manufacturing

Inward investment has revived the Welsh economy. Thirteen years ago, when the Principality seriously began to woo foreign firms in a bid to diversify away from declining heavy industries, 12.8 per cent of the workforce was unemployed, against a UK average of 10.1 per cent. Today, unemployment in Wales is down to 7.5 per cent, against a 6.9 per cent national average.

Some areas, such as Merthyr — where 5,000 people applied for 300 jobs — at Wales's first Korean-owned company, Halla — prove that much remains to be done. But Wales has managed to cut unemployment by 35 per cent since 1983 amid seemingly unhelpful local conditions.

That is largely because of the 414 overseas-owned plants that employ 157,000 people, a third of the manufacturing workforce. These companies employ more people than the 152,700 who lacked jobs in 1983.

Last year, according to William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, "we've won over 130 projects, promising more than 15,000 jobs". But foreign firms have done more than just create jobs. They have invested more than £10.2 billion in capital projects.

Professor Gerald Rhys, of Cardiff Business School, said: "They have revitalised Welsh manufacturing industry. Wales is bucking the trend of decline in manufacturing."

The sector has grown by an eighth since 1990, and the two main areas of development, electronics and automotive components, have experienced huge expansion. Some 200 automotive components producers employ some 27,000 people, and create annual sales of £1.7 billion.

This growth, Professor Rhys believes, is because of Wales's low unit labour costs. "That does not mean low wages," he insists. "Wages paid by inward investors tend to be higher than those paid by indigenous businesses. But as our workforce has high productivity, unit labour costs are low."

The flexible nature of the Welsh workforce was noted by 50 of the Principality's top inward investors in a survey by Coopers & Lybrand. Nine out of ten said their workforce beat requirements for productivity and willingness to train. Sony said: "We are the most flexible, productive, and profitable site in Europe."

That is why Sony, like three quarters of the investors questioned, wants to expand in South Wales. Earlier this month it announced a £50 million investment at Bridgend and Penarth that will create 1,000 jobs making tubes for wide-screen televisions.

"Companies that expand here show their commitment to Wales," says James Turner, the Welsh Development Agency's head of inward investment. "And they demonstrate to new investors that Wales is a successful place in which to operate. They are an important endorsement for us."

Mr Turner believes that the £1.7 billion investment planned by Lucky Goldstar (LGC) is the best advert Wales will receive over the next 10 years. He claims that the

management training programme for businesses introducing Japanese ideas on shop-floor efficiency, communications and relationships with suppliers. It includes factory visits and problem-solving workshops for companies seeking efficiency gains.

The success of inward investment in south-east Wales is causing some concern that the economy there could overheat. "But that is not a problem at present," says Mr Turner. "Together with a Tec and Imperial College, which is joint owner of LG's site, we are establishing a training centre in semi-conductor electronics to ensure that skills shortages will not become a problem."

There has been criticism from communities in Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire and Heads Of The Valleys that they have been passed over by the foreign boom. Although location is largely up to companies, some are beginning to look at less favoured areas. Last week

Faure, the French car seat manufacturer, announced a £12 million plan to establish a factory and create 300 jobs in the unemployment black spot of Tredegar.

Cell Centres are planned for the rural north and west in the hope that they can emulate the success of rural Mid Wales in attracting foreign companies. John Taylor, chief executive of the Development Board for Rural Wales, says: "Our European, Japanese and North American-owned firms are helping us diversify the rural economy. And the wages they pay are on a par with the UK average."

Manufacturing now employs a tenth of the rural workforce, as many as in agriculture.

Undoubtedly, 175 North American and continental, 51 Japanese and 23 Asian and Australian operations have changed the face of the Welsh economy in 13 years. But maintaining momentum is hard. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, when Wales routinely attracted a fifth of the UK's inward investment projects, it was a big player in a less competitive market.

In 1985 the WDA was one of only three such bodies seeking business in Tokyo. Europe now has 650 agencies, twice as many as five years ago, all competing for projects.

After redrawing the development area map in 1993, only a seventh of the Principality's population now lives in a designated development area, compared with a third in 1992. Fortunately grants, though important, are not the only issue for relocating companies. Almedica, an American clinical testing equipment manufacturer, chose Dwydd, North Wales, in preference to another UK region that could give financial assistance.

The WDA is keen to dismiss the idea that the regions are trying to outbid each other to attract foreign companies. "Inward investment is now industrial policy," says Professor Rhys. "If a project does not come to Wales, or Scotland, or wherever, it does not come to the UK." Everyone loses because, as Professor Rhys points out, "inward investment's greatest success is in rebuilding Britain's industrial base."

The Welsh Development Agency (WDA) has set up a

in Bridgend in anticipation of Lucky Goldstar. Under the Source Wales initiative, LG will also be encouraged to look local whenever possible. For example, Halla, its compatriot, has already ordered £1 million of goods and services from local suppliers, two thirds of its needs.

"Sourcing locally is a positive business advantage," says Neil Fitzgerald, Halla's purchasing officer. "A lot of our suppliers are close enough to enable us to meet personally and talk things through whenever there is a problem. That makes for efficiency."

Newcomers like LG also introduced new management practices. Both indigenous and non-Asian inward investors are being introduced to the Japanese way of doing business. Back to the 1980s, Sony learnt the hard way about the British approach to supplier standards. Two fifths of components arriving at Bridgend were defective. Now, after a training initiative and supplier award scheme, the failure rate is down to one in 200.

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The Welsh Development Agency (WDA) has set up a

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.25	2.07
Austria Sch	19.32	17.82
Belgium Fr	56.90	52.30
Canada \$	2.426	2.266
Cyprus Cyp£	0.819	0.764
Denmark Kr	10.53	9.73
Finland Mk	6.38	7.73
France Fr	9.19	8.54
Germany Dm	2.76	2.55
Greece Dr	430	405
Hong Kong \$	13.68	12.68
Iceland Pk	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel Shk	5.76	5.11
Italy Lira	2673	2618
Japan Yen	209.30	193.30
Malta	0.646	0.591
Netherlands Gld	3.073	2.843
New Zealand \$	2.53	2.31
Norway Kr	11.34	10.54
Portugal Esc	273.00	254.50
S Africa Rd	8.51	7.71
Spain Pts	226.50	213.50
Sweden Kr	12.28	11.48
Switzerland Fr	162.00	150.00
Turkey Lira	1.795	1.656
USA \$		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar	1.6916 (-0.0001)
German mark	2.6345 (+0.0034)
Exchange index	95.8 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share	2811.8 (+16.0)
FTSE 100	4089.5 (-1.5)
New York Dow Jones	6544.09 (-16.82)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	Closed

Answers from page 36

VALANCE

(c) A piece of drapery attached lengthways to a canopy, altar-drapery, or the like, so as to hang in a vertical position. Possibly from the Old French *valance* to descend. Upon striking the tent, we found beneath the valance between the crown and the walls a regiment of scorpions.

WEANIE

(a) A very young child. Scottish dialect. The diminutive of wean. Robert Burns, *Scotch Drink*, 1785: "When skirlin weanies see the light, / Thou maks the gossip clatter bright."

WORT

(a) The infusion of malt or other grain which after fermentation becomes beer (or may be used for the distillation of spirits), unfermented beer. Old English *wort* = Old Saxon *wurtja* spicery. "No person may, without being licensed, / Brew or make wort or wash."

VUM

(c) To vow or swear. Old-fashioned American colloquialism. An alteration of *to vow*. Oliver Wendell Holmes, *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, 1858: "But the Deacon swore, (as Deacons do. With an 'I dew vum', or an 'I tell yeu'."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxg7! Kxg7 2 Nxd5! f6x5 3 Rh6 and mate follows.

THE TIMES
WILL PUBLISH
A SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT ON
STAMP COLLECTING
IN ASSOCIATION
WITH ROYAL SOCIETY
ON 10 JANUARY 1997

Prospects for 1997 offer little hope of early improvement

In Europe, the gilt market has been the one bond market that many analysts said looked cheap but few investors wished to buy. The result has been an abysmal performance over the past year. This was the case in absolute terms but was more pronounced in relative terms, given that gilts failed to participate in the convergence trades that dominated other European bond markets. 1996 will be remembered as the year in which yields on Spanish and Italian bonds dived below those available on gilts.

There were three main reasons for this dismal state of affairs. The first was EMU-induced yield convergence. Market valuations were acutely affected by shifting perceptions as to which countries would be in or out of EMU. Whatever one's view on the possibility of

Italy, for example, being in EMU at the start, there was considerably less doubt about the UK. Change of government or not, EMU entry in the UK looks further away than in most other major EU economies.

Secondly, there was political risk. As the Government staggered from one mini-crisis to another, and its majority in the House of Commons disappeared, a Labour victory at the next general election looked an increasingly safe bet. This is not perceived to be the market threat that it once was, as the prospective Labour approach to key aspects of macro policy look indistinguishable from those of the Conservative Party.

Nevertheless, markets dislike risk and in various respects — on tax policy and the public sector borrowing requirement in particular — uncertainty remains over

GILT-EDGED

the new government's likely approach. To international — or indeed domestic — investors faced with a wide range of alternatives, this seemed like a market to shun.

Finally, there has been the state of the economy itself. Strong consumer-led growth and falling unemployment does make the UK economy look like one of the most successful in Europe. But from a bond market perspective this carries risks, crucially for inflation and hence for short-term interest rates. An upbeat Budget forecast, as well as the surprise base-rate hike of late October, underlined the extent of these risks.

Looking forward, the depressing con-

clusion is that if this analysis of the reason for gilts' underperformance is correct, then not much is set to change, at least in the early part of 1997. EMU concerns and political risk will clearly persist for a while. And the extent of the threat posed by strong economic growth remains far from clear. Base rates are set to rise again (most probably in February, after the release of the Q4 GDP estimate in late January), but that will not be the end of the story. The trend in base rates could continue to be up for much of this year, regardless of which party wins the election.

In short, it will get worse before it gets better and the yield premium of ten-year

gilts over German bunds — currently around 1.85 per cent — is likely to exceed 2 per cent before the election is out of the way. After that, however, some improvement should be in prospect. The impact of stronger growth (around 3.5 per cent in 1997) on inflation will be limited given the clear shift in inflationary expectations in the UK and internationally. Inflation is not expected to stray much from the 2.5 per cent target (likely to be retained by the new government). The peak of the base-rate cycle should be no higher than 7 per cent under these circumstances.

Nevertheless, the experience of 1996 shows that it would be unwise to get too enthusiastic about gilts in 1997. Although the market may do slightly better post-election, the extent of the improvement is expected to be limited. Strongish GDP

growth, rising interest rates and continued scepticism about Europe even under a Labour government (committed, like the Government in power, to following rather than leading public opinion) all differentiate the UK market from most other European bond markets.

This combination of political and economic factors makes the UK look unique in a European context at the moment. While many might quite legitimately argue that this is a desirable state of affairs (with an unemployment rate, for example, that is the envy of most), it does imply that gilts could end up being the last genuinely high-yielding European bond market.

JOHN SHEPPARD AND
NIGEL RICHARDSON
Yamaichi International (Europe) Ltd

Rolls-Royce and BAe seek end to stake limit

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

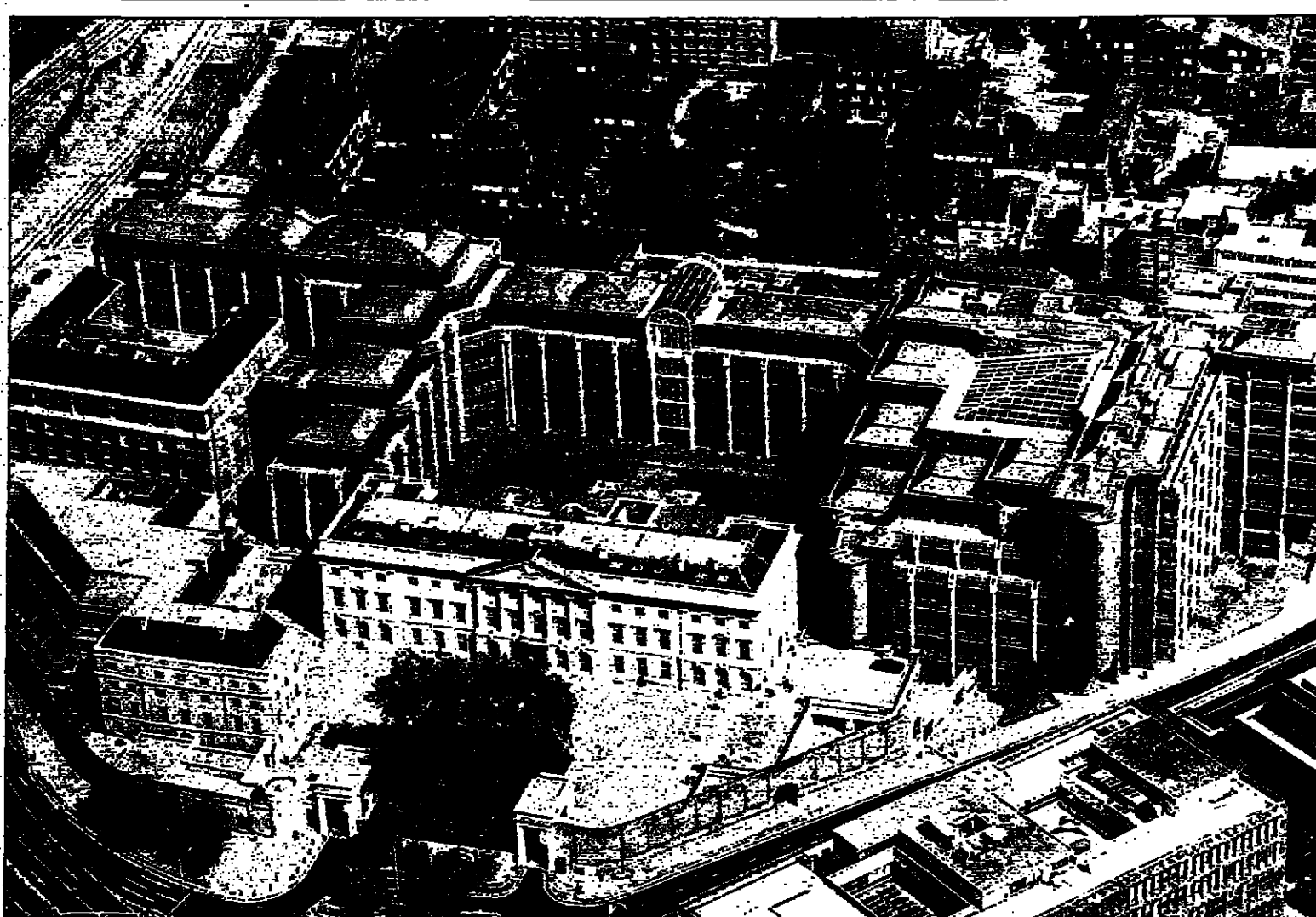
A FRESH push on the Government to relax the limits on foreign investors in British Aerospace and BAe has been launched by the two companies in the wake of the planned merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas of the United States.

Sir Richard Evans, BAe chief executive, and Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of Rolls-Royce, asked Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, before Christmas to lift the 29.5 per cent foreign investor limit.

Their call is the latest in a long battle for the rule, instigated at the privatisation of both companies, to be abandoned in response to the increasing globalisation of their businesses and the growth in strategic alliances between companies. Boeing

revealed plans last month to become the world's largest aerospace company via a takeover of McDonnell Douglas, making flexibility among members of the European aerospace industry more urgent. The merger is the latest consolidation of US companies. It is exerting pressure on Europe's aerospace business as it competes with US giants for business. But European consolidation is impeded by national politics.

For some time, BAe has warned the Government of the need for Europe's groups to get together or face extinction. Rolls-Royce is similarly affected by fierce competition in aerospace and has a growing international arm that strengthens its desire for flexibility in foreign investment. BAe faces a big reorganisation of its resources when Airbus



THE former Royal Mint complex, centred on Sir Robert Smirke's landmark classical building opposite the Tower of London, has been sold to Capital and Income Group, called CIT and owned by a group of

overseas millionaires. CIT has paid £90 million to Hermes, managers of BT pension funds, for a long lease on the 440,000 square feet of office space, mainly contained in undistinguished 1980s blocks at the back of the listed

building. The Crown Commissioners, who are the freeholders, share half the rents on the complex, which come largely from Barclays Bank. The deal shows an initial yield of 8.75 per cent. CIT has bought four other prominent

buildings in the past year, including Smith New Court (now Merrill Lynch) headquarters and Sea Containers House, both in London. Hermes is looking to reinvest the proceeds in other let City property.

CBI sees growth in property holdings

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A GROWING number of companies plan to put cash into commercial property, research by the Confederation of British Industry and Grimley, the property advisers, shows.

Nearly one third of businesses questioned say that they will increase property holdings, although more than a quarter plan to reduce their commercial property interests. Forty one per cent expected to make no change.

Sudhir Junankar, associate director of economic analysis at the CBI, said: "Business confidence has strengthened markedly compared with six months ago, and companies expect a further pick-up in business led by domestic demand. With profitability set to grow faster over the next six months, the upturn in the commercial property market is becoming more firmly based."

Distributors, metal manufacturers, chemical processors, transport companies and those involved in communications are among those most likely to increase their property holdings in the next six months. Expanding capacity is the reason that most companies give for intending to buy more property, rather than a need to relocate.

Foreign ownership in both companies stands at about 26 per cent, leaving them with no space to strike large links involving cross-ownership with overseas companies.

If the Department of Trade and Industry stands firm over the limits, it would heighten the industrial logic of a merger between BAe and GEC, the other big UK aerospace business. But such a link might not find favour with the Ministry of Defence, which would be dealing with just one contractor for military needs.

The DTI could not comment yesterday on talks between the companies and Mr Lang. But it is thought his department is receptive to the idea. If there are encouraging signs from the DTI, BAe and Rolls-Royce will be keen to win assurances before the general election.

A BAe spokesman said yesterday that the lobbying of the DTI was "part of the bigger picture in the industry". Rolls-Royce said there was no deadline for further talks between the parties.

Originally, foreign ownership in the two companies was restricted to 14.9 per cent — as it is with more recent privatisations such as the electricity generators — but was raised to its present level eight years ago, after Rolls-Royce had to force some investors to sell when the limit was exceeded.

The idea of limiting foreign ownership is to prevent overseas takeovers of big businesses. But the companies think a takeover could still be stopped by the Government regardless of the ownership make-up.

Last year the DTI reaffirmed its commitment to golden shares in the generators although it had allowed foreign takeovers of several other electricity companies after golden shares expired.

Visa to fine banks with millennium bug

By FRASER NELSON

VISA, the world's largest credit-card company, is preparing to impose a fine of up to £100,000 per month on some of its member banks in a last-ditch attempt to ensure that they will accept credit cards with expiry dates extending into the new millennium.

The company, itself a consortium of 20,000 banks, is launching the penal system a year after its first deadline for Year 2000 compliance. It estimated that 1.3 million outlets worldwide are still unable to cope with cards with expiry dates reaching "00". Britain is believed to account for only 40,000 of the faulty terminals.

After April, banks that have

problems processing the cards will be charged between £600 and £100,000 per month, depending on volume, until they correct the bug.

Visa says that 90 per cent of terminals accept the new cards but an unacceptably high number still throw up an error. Jim Dickie, vice president of Visa's operations and services in Europe, said the move was the next logical step to safeguard the card's brand name.

Year 2000 compliance is the first of three upheavals Visa faces over the next three years. The cards are also to have built-in microchips, and European monetary union will require further upgrades.

Abell denies talk of bid for Jourdan

DAVID ABELL, former chairman of Suter, has denied reports that he plans to launch a bid for Thomas Jourdan, the trouser-press to DIY goods company in which he controls a 4.5 per cent stake (Fraser Nelson writes).

Mr Abell, who netted £10 million when Suter was bought by Asot Holdings, told *The Times* he holds the shares as part of a range of investments and without ulterior motive. Bid talk shot Jourdan's shares from a three-year low of 22p two weeks ago to 33½p after the company said it was asking Mr Abell to "clarify his interest". Jourdan also disclosed that Mr Abell's friends and family owned 1.7 per cent of the shares.

GGT deals may be halted until March

By JASON NISSE

INVESTORS in GGT Group, the advertising agency, may have to wait until March to see a restocking of the company's shares. These were suspended in September when GGT announced a £10 million bid for BDDP, a French rival.

Mike Greenlees, GGT's chief executive, has been hoping to have news for shareholders this month. But now he does not expect to have a prospectus ready to give shareholders the details of the deal until the end of January at the earliest.

"We are just completing due diligence but we hope to have a shareholders' meeting on February 28," Mr Greenlees

told *The Times*. GGT Group shares were suspended because of the size of the deal, which will treble the size of the London agency.

The transaction has reminded City analysts of mid-1980s deals such as WPP Group's purchase of J Walter Thompson and Blue Arrow's acquisition of Manpower.

GGT's directors have been fearful of a market collapse while due diligence is under way. Their confidence has not been helped by the news that Wells Rich Green, BDDP's New York agency, recently lost £50 million worth of work for Ford, the motor company.

Shares placed

Cliphone, which uses an interactive voice response telephone system to speed up trials of new drugs, has raised a further £3.3 million for expansion through a placing with the private equity arms of Mercury Asset Management and HSBC.

Bernard Matthews Bernard Matthews clarified on Friday that Mr Matthews, chairman of the eponymous turkey company, has transferred one million shares into a family trust and has not reduced the family's shareholding. No payment was received by Mr Matthews.

Chemists battle set to resume

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LLOYDS Chemists, which has been at the centre of a £630 million takeover battle for nearly a year, reports trading figures for the last three months of 1996 this week.

The trading statement, which should signal the resumption of fighting over the future, will include the crucial Christmas period. It is due tomorrow or on Wednesday and will indicate whether Lloyds' business has contin-

ued to suffer because of the long-running bid battle, which began last January 18. In October, it reported a sharp drop in full-year profits and blamed costs and uncertainties associated with the bids.

Unichem and Germany's Gehe have until January 17 to decide whether to increase their bids for Lloyds, which last month recommended shareholders to take no action until they see whether either is

raised. The takeover battle has become one of the longest-running in recent years.

The Unichem and Gehe bids were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Committee. After a conditional clearance in the autumn, both relaunched their bids. Gehe is offering 500p a share in cash, while Unichem is offering cash and shares.

Reporting this week, page 39

Clyde and hostile bidder a gulf apart

By PAUL DURMAN

GULF CANADA'S £432 million takeover bid for Clyde Petroleum values the UK oil company's shares at less than half the rating enjoyed by Gulf Canada's own stock, Clyde claimed yesterday.

In its first defence document, Clyde said that an analysis of cash flow multiples — an important industry benchmark — showed that the company was "dramatically undervalued" by Gulf Canada's offer of 105p a share. Adjusted for debt, Gulf Canada's offer values Clyde at 5.7 times its 1995 cash flow. In comparison, Gulf Canada's shares trade on a multiple of 12.7. Clyde claims that the average multiple of comparable companies is 8.9.

Gulf Canada dismissed the cash flow comparisons as a red herring, and said that European oil companies are more

usually valued by reference to net assets. A spokesman said that Gulf was offering 40 per cent above Clyde's net asset value.

Malcolm Gourlay, Clyde's chairman, said that Gulf Canada's offer failed to reflect progress made since the company began overhauling its strategy in 1994. The company has turned round operating losses of £22.3 million in 1993, making operating profits of £33.7 million in 1995, and £27.8 million in the first half of 1996.

Since 1993, Clyde's total proven and probable reserves have risen by 37 per cent, to 225 million barrels of oil equivalent (rmbob), while commercial reserves — already on stream or commercially viable — grew by 21 per cent, to 130 rmbob.

The defence document discloses that Mr Gourlay and other Clyde directors have sold more than 450,000 shares since last April, at prices as low as 63p. Mr Gourlay

dismissed the sales as a non-issue. He said that most sales were of options close to expiry, and were partly driven by tax planning needs. He said that all Clyde's executive directors have bigger shareholdings now than a year ago.

A Gulf Canada spokesman commented: "The board have been selling out consistently over the last year. Shareholders should follow suit."

Clyde's fate largely rests with four shareholders, including Schroders, Norwich Union and PDM, that together control 52.5 per cent of its shares.

Roy Franklin, Clyde's managing director, refused to say whether Clyde was seeking a white knight in preference to a deal with Gulf Canada.

Clyde shares closed on Friday at 116½p, indicating that the City believes that Gulf will have to raise its bid if it is to win.



Gourlay: progress made

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Du Maurier dominated by Diana's Danvers

There is good news and, just for once, more good news. Let's take the good news first, shall we? Diana Rigg was on top last night, right? Rebecca (TV) After two rather indifferent outings recently, first in *Moll Flanders* and then in the execrable *Samson and Delilah*, she needed something to restore morale and Mrs Danvers was definitely it. A more bewitching figure cannot have stalked the corridors of Manderley before.

As I recall, the word "menace" means something rather different in du Maurier family code, secretly signifying attractiveness. In which case Rigg's Mrs Danvers was "menacing" in every sense of the word. Snarling, of course, as she prowled silently around the west wing, but still showing enough signs of severely repressed beauty to add a whole new dimension to her obsession with dead Rebecca.

"I feel her... everywhere," she

shuddered, carrying the first Mrs de Winter's wardrobe in a very un-keeper-like way. I didn't dream of Manderley last night, but tonight, well, fingers crossed.

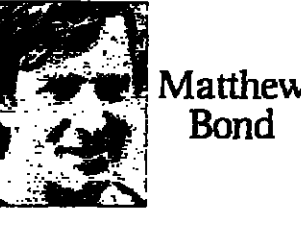
The famous first line had no part to play in Arthur Hopper's two-part adaptation, which concludes tonight. Instead, the privilege fell to Faye Dunaway, looking far too good to play faded beauty with any conviction, but still having a ball as the wealthy Mrs van Hopper. It was 1927 and Monte Carlo was no longer to her liking. "Not a single well-known personality - what's happening to this place?" Enter Maxim de Winter... which brings me to the more good news. *Rebecca*, at least on the evidence of this first helping, was wonderful.

True, there were one or two awkward moments, particularly after de Winter (Charles Dance) and his young bride (Emilia Fox) returned to Manderley and the

mood swung suddenly from romance (of the no... don't do it variety) to melodrama (oops, too late). Mrs Danvers, we knew, would give the new Mrs De W a hard time, but when Frith the Butler and even the nice estate manager start banging on about the fragrant Rebecca you knew we had said goodbye to anything resembling the real world. But once you make that transition, helped by the inevitable appearance of sinister black olekins talking with a thick West Country accent, it's fine.

Dance and Fox gave exceptional performance, particularly during the vital early wooing scenes, with Dance displaying just enough fatal charm to make up for de Winter's sudden bouts of rage and Fox cleverly combining grand passion with engaging innocence but never with naivety.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

When Frank Crawley (Tom Chabon) later told her that "kindness, sincerity and modesty are worth all the beauty in the world" you knew exactly what he was talking about. Tonight's conclusion should not be missed, if only to discover whether we see anything more of Rebecca than Lucy Cohu's suitably captivating eyes.

If Rebecca put a big hole in the audience for Ballykissangel

(BBC), I shall reflect with a modest cheer. I'm right off Irish whimsy at the moment and *Ballykissangel* as the locals have it, is one of the main reasons why. The charm is so contrived, the stories so astonishingly inconsequential.

Last night's opener was written by the man who created the series, Kieran Penneville, and was a cliff-hanger of truly pebble-like proportions. Would Assumpta (Dervla Kirwan) kiss Father Clifford (Stephen Tompkinson) in the village play, or Enda O'Sullivan, the baroque former rock star who has just moved into the area? Give up! Here's a clue: there are no awful lot more episodes to come.

The comic subplots were similarly sophisticated stuff, consisting of a farthing Irish setter, a blocked farmyard drish and a golf-playing bishop who booked into Assumpta's hotel and then - yes, yes - booked out again. You whimsy if you want to know many of you

do), but I'm off. Wake me when *Hamish MacBeth* comes back.

Saturday night brought us that television rarity, the minor retrospective. Alan Yentob had been to New York to interview David Bowie and came back with so little material that the best part of *Changes: Bowie at Fifty* (BBC2) was all the music in-between.

In style it was like watching a very bad episode of *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. Yentob, as you might expect from a man who found Sunday behind the camera, was a hopeless interviewer, halting, over-deferential and beginning his questions "when we spoke last..." and even "when we were in Los Angeles in '74..." But Bowie, celebrating his 50th birthday, proved an equally hopeless, halting interviewee, confirming that new-school pretension did not end with the departure of Brian Eno.

Bowie started it with "synthesising" and "refracting" artistic sources. But Yentob, drawing on all those meetings that made him Controller of BBC2 and then BBC1, hit back with "intuitive" and "otherness". Bowie, however, playing a clever one-two, trumped that with "mutual electricity" followed by "philosophical areas of fragmentation". Time for another record, I thought.

It was the sort of programme that made a long film about dying seem really quite appealing. Goodbye My Love (ITV, Saturday) had superb performances from Robert Lindsay and, particularly, Gwen Humble, as the euthanasia campaigner, Derek Humphry, and his second wife, Ann. But as a dramatisation of real events (chronology changed, dialogue created, the normal stuff) it never convinced me that this version of events was at all truthful and by particularly enlightening.

BBC1

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (66761)
- 7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (67693)
- 9.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (4136341)
- 9.20am ALL OVER THE SHOP (810815)
- 9.45 KILROY (1303167)
- 10.30am CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (20709)
- 11.00am NEWS (T) and weather (6605419)
- 11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (607916)
- 11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (643166)
- 12.00pm NEWS (T) and weather (7294438)
- 12.05pm INCOGNITO (642532)
- 12.30pm CALL MY BLUFF (416887)
- 12.55pm THE WEATHER SHOW (2873544)
- 1.00pm NEWS (T) and weather (60070)
- 1.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (4253438)
- 1.40pm NEIGHBOURS (7415263)
- 2.05pm THE WATCHER: In the Woods (1980) starring Bette Davis, Carol Baker and David McCullum. An American family moves into a British house which they soon realise is haunted by the ghost of the owner's long-missing child. Directed by John Hough (3336093)
- 3.30pm PLAYDAYS (613898) 3.50pm Pingu (327815) 4.00pm Bodge and Bodge (605050) 4.10pm Gadget Boy (1949573) 4.35pm Record Breakers: Gold (716270) 5.00pm Newsround (T) (5533083) 5.10pm Blue Peter (T) (1150400)
- 5.35pm NEIGHBOURS (T) (298273)
- 6.00pm NEWS (T) and weather (159)
- 6.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (821)
- 7.00pm THIS IS YOUR LIFE (T) (8189)
- 7.30pm WATCHDOG: FACE VALUE (1982) starring Bette Davis, Carol Baker and David McCullum. An American family moves into a British house which they soon realise is haunted by the ghost of the owner's long-missing child. Directed by John Hough (3336093)
- 8.00pm EASTWIND: Don't come up with an explanation when he's caught red-handed and Clara tries to patch things up between Grant and Nigel (T) (4505)
- 8.30pm THE BRITISH EMPIRE: Return of the comedy about the fastidious leucine centre manager played by Chris Barrie. Gordon Brinkley returns for a 6-part series. Bungee jump looks like coming a cropper when the only member of staff remotely interested is a heavily pregnant Julie (T) (8941)
- 9.00pm NEWS (T) and weather (5893)
- 9.30pm PANORAMA: A report on the long-running debate over hospital closures (T) (895457)
- 10.10pm FILM: A Pest for Murder (1992) starring Courtney Cox and Jeff Fahey. A blind woman is pursued by a serial rapist and murderer after she tells an attack. Directed by Jack Sholder (1074362)
- 11.40pm FILM: 97 WITH BARRY NORMAN includes reviews of *Surviving Picasso*, starring Anthony Hopkins, and *The Mirror*, starring Tom Hanks. A comedy starring Barbra Streisand and Jeff Bridges. Plus, Tom Hanks discusses his directorial debut with *That Thing You Do!* (52596)
- 12.20pm FILM: Dogs of War (1980) starring Christopher Walken and Tom Berenger. Mercenaries embark on a mission to overthrow a brutal African dictator. Directed by John Irvin (T) (831113)
- 2.00pm WEATHER (140826)

BBC2

- 7.15am SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (663780) 7.30am Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch. (2949457) 7.55pm Blue Peter (2736162) 8.20pm Pingu (3375254) 8.35pm Lassie (6636167) 9.00pm Daytime On Two (T) On the Road (22167) 9.20pm Pathways of Solent: Christianity (6627708) 9.45pm Technology: Starters (6615864) 10.00pm Playdays (41693) 10.30pm Landmarks: Pakistan and its People (5929864) 10.50pm The Book of David (5940728) 11.10pm Top Gear (321619) 11.30pm Ghostwatch (47272) 12.00pm Testament: The Bible in Animation (35631) 12.30pm Working Lunch (62273) 1.00pm History File (6054205) 1.20pm German Globo (6994472) 1.25pm Landmarks: (6055189) 1.45pm Storyline (4428315) 2.00pm Pingu (6636167) 2.05pm Hairy Jeremy (6658208) 2.10pm The Champions (665820)
- 3.00pm NEWS (T) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (668425)
- 3.05pm DARTS: World Championship Highlights of yesterday's matches (1492051)
- 6.00pm SPACED: PRECINCT: The star cop-cops an unethical transport racket (T) (57303)
- 6.45pm AS SEEN ON TV: Showcase screening of films from the first three series of the award-winning children's camcorder programme (T) (112525)
- 7.00pm PEOPLE'S CENTURY (T) (T) (87898)
- 7.50pm GARDENERS' WORLD: Take two Stephen Leach visits Westpark in Munich to investigate a real garden and while style technique of planting perennials and ornamental grasses (T) (755308)
- 8.00pm LOCAL HEROES: Adam Hart-Davis sets off on a six-part search for more British pioneers of science and invention. Beginning in the South West, he creates a scale model of an extraordinary Brunel-designed railway. A family holiday in the Victorian vicar who created a wireless-lavatory and a carpenter's daughter who became a renowned fossil collector (T) (2148)
- 8.30pm UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE: St Andrews v Gorton College, Cambridge (T) (493)
- 9.00pm FILM: One Against the Wind (1991) starring Judy Davis and Sam Neill. The story of well-to-do heiress Mary Lindell who successfully operated an escape route for downed Allied airmen despite attracting the attentions of the Gestapo. Directed by Barry Lyndon (T) (4964)
- 10.20pm VIDEO NATION SHORTS (34631)
- 10.30pm NEWSIGHT (T) (543815)
- 11.15pm DARTS: World Championship First-round matches (42051)
- 12.20pm FILM: Through a Glass Darkly (1962, b/w) starring Hannele Anderson and Sven Wollander. A family holiday is torn apart by repression, betrayal and guilt. Directed by Ingmar Bergman. In Swedish with English subtitles (871804) Ends at 1.55

CHOICE

- Face Value (BBC1, 7.30pm) In a spin-off from *Watchdog*, Alice Beer finally escapes the motherly hold of Anne Robinson to host a six-part series on the fashion and beauty industry. As on *Watchdog*, entertainment mixes seamlessly with hard-headed consumerism. Is an anti-wrinkle cream all that it claims? Beer gets herself a trip to New York to find out. She also exposes the almost invisible distinction between editorial and advertising in some women's magazines. Victor Ubiaga takes time off the front row of the fashion scene to follow a 50-year-old businessman through his facelift operation. But the trickiest task falls to the singer Toyah Willcox. With help from experts, including a man with a computer program, she sets out to define beauty.
- The Fight For Hearts and Minds (Channel 4, 8.00pm) In the first of two films on successive nights, Nick Danziger profiles the work of heart transplant surgeons at Harefield Hospital in Middlesex. The story may be familiar but Danziger has an unusual way of telling it. Many people want transplants but there are organs available. Several die while waiting the operation. Even those who do get a new heart are not guaranteed long-term survival. Danziger's method, as you might expect from a photo-journalist, is to investigate a real case and while scrapping the programme, he has a real moving film. This may run against television orthodoxy but monochrome images are arguably more powerful. Danziger homes in on four potential heart transplant patients, including a five-year-old girl, and also collects the story of a rising young surgeon, Peter O'Keefe. Danziger's second film was shot at the Maudsley Hospital.
- Classic Trains: Coals From Newcastle (Channel 4, 8.30pm) We have had classic everything else, from cars to trucks and motorbikes, so it was inevitable that the same production programme should get round to railways. As before, the programme is a collection of scrapbooks, rather than formal histories, built around surviving machines and the memories of transport veterans. Narration is again entrusted to the reassuring voice of John Peel. *Classic Trains* begins where the railways began on the coasts of north-east England. We are reminded that coal was once transported from the pits by horse-drawn wagons on wooden rails, before steam locomotives and the iron road took over. As old pufflers are dusted down and pressed back into life, the film argues that we hung on to steam long after it became obsolete. Romanticism might not agree.
- The Nick (Channel 4, 9.00pm) Paul Berriff's fly-on-the-wall series about Gipton police station near Leeds was first broadcast in 1994. But one of the episodes had to be omitted because it featured a case involving a trial. That obstacle having been removed, the programme can now be shown. Berriff's ability to have the camera in the right place at the right time is again evident as he gives impressively detailed accounts of three cases. A suspected armed robber is holed up in a house, a second-hand shop is under surveillance for stolen goods and two bogus police officers have been calling on elderly people and stealing their money. Television documentaries have a habit of showing the less reputable side of police work but *The Nick* projects nothing but calm professionalism, laced with an agreeable strain of humour. Peter Waymark

GMTV

- 6.00am GMTV (123341)
- 9.25am WIN, LOSE OR DRAW (T) (5181506)
- 9.55am REGIONAL NEWS (T) (564631)
- 10.00am THE TIME, THE PLACE (45419)
- 10.30am THIS MORNING (123544815)
- 12.00pm REGIONAL NEWS (T) (56273)
- 12.30pm NEWS (T) and weather (412273)
- 12.55pm HIGH ROAD (6621322)
- 1.25pm HOME AND AWAY (T) (6230344)
- 1.55pm MURDER, SHE WROTE (T) (553728)
- 2.00pm News (T) (5621322)
- 3.20pm NEWS (T) (5621322)
- 3.25pm REGIONAL NEWS (T) (5630186)
- 3.30pm TOTS TV (1845457, 3.40pm Rainbow Days (1714458) 3.50pm Cartoon Time (7254483) 4.05pm The As-Seen Series: New series (661349) 4.20pm The Addams Family Tree: New series (T) (1930964) 4.45pm At Attack: New series (T) (146761)
- 5.10pm BAGDAD CAFE (3236506)
- 5.40pm NEWS (T) and weather (431051)
- 6.00pm HOME AND AWAY (T) (T) (222148)
- 6.25pm HIT NEWS (T) (573273)
- 7.00pm WISH YOU WERE HERE: Urtika Jonsson discovers a little-known side to Hawaii on the island of Kauai, while Judith Chalmers samples an outdoor family holiday in the northern French region of Picardy, and John and Catherine discover what delights Turkey holds in store for tourists (T) (3254)
- 7.30pm CORONATION STREET: Mike Baldwin has had a bellyful of Don Brennan's self-pitying behaviour (T) (631)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55pm-1.25pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (151824)
- 1.50pm BLUE HEELERS (6515709)
- 2.50-3.20pm HIGH ROAD (6621322)
- 5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (6326506)
- 6.25-7.00pm CENTRAL NEWS (573273)
- 11.35pm HUNTER (238331)
- 12.30pm HUNTERWOOD FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (235745)
- 1.15pm LATE AND LOUD (607674)
- 2.15pm REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL (4443910)
- 2.40pm WICKED STEPMOTHER (833668)
- 4.20pm CENTRAL JOBRINDER '97 (1461552)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55-1.25pm GARDENERS' DIARY (4161964)
- 1.50pm BRIEF ENCOUNTERS (74160167)
- 2.20pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1185806)
- 5.10-5.40pm HOME AND AWAY (6326506)
- 6.00-7.00pm WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (34490)
- 10.30pm WESTCOUNTRY NEWS (710273)
- 10.45pm NASH BRIDGES (681344)
- 11.40pm PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H (235544)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55-1.25pm CROSSWITS (4161964)
- 1.50pm MURDER, SHE WROTE (6515709)
- 2.50-3.20pm GARDENS WITHOUT BORDERS (6621322)
- 5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (6326506)
- 6.25-7.00pm CENTRAL NEWS (573273)
- 10.29pm ANGLIA AIR WATCH (340457)
- 10.30pm ANGLIA NEWS AND WEATHER (710273)
- 10.45pm NASH BRIDGES (681344)
- 11.40pm HIGHLANDER (235544)

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- 12.55-1.25pm CROSSWITS (4161964)
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- 11.40pm HIGHLANDER (235544)

As HTV West except:

- 12.55-1.25pm CROSSWITS (4161964)
- 1.50pm MURDER, SHE WROTE (6515709)
- 2.50-3.20pm GARDENS WITHOUT BORDERS (6621322)
- 5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (6326506)
- 6.25-7.00pm CENTRAL NEWS (573273)
- 10.29pm ANGLIA AIR WATCH (340457)
- 10.30pm ANGLIA NEWS AND WEATHER (710273)
- 10.45pm NASH BRIDGES (681344)
- 11.40pm HIGHLANDER (235544)



Charles Dance stars (8pm)



George Cowell reminisces (8.30pm)

VideoPlus+

- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to watch a particular programme. The VideoPlus+ for the programme you wish to watch. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of the VideoPlus+ system, a trademark of the VideoPlus+ system.

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 6.00am The Morning Mail (66457) 9.00am Desperate Housewives (66457) 10.00am The Morning Mail (66457) 10.30am The Morning Mail (66457) 11.00am The Morning Mail (66457) 11.30am The Morning Mail (66457) 12.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 12.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 1.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 1.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 2.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 2.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 3.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 3.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 4.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 4.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 5.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 5.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 6.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 6.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 7.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 7.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 8.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 8.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 9.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 9.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 10.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 10.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 11.00pm The Morning Mail (66457) 11.30pm The Morning Mail (66457) 12.00pm The Morning Mail 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SAVING WALES 40

Foreign legion marches in to boost economy

BUSINESS

SURVIVORS 42

Entrepreneurs who shaped the Eighties



MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Most directors fail to meet codes of practice on boardroom pay

By Jason Nisse

MORE THAN 400 executive directors of quoted companies either have no service contracts or fail to disclose the detail of their contracts in spite of a legal requirement to do so, research submitted to the Hampel committee on corporate governance has revealed.

A survey of 1,036 listed companies by Manifest, the proxy voting agency, has also revealed serious divergence from the best practice in corporate governance laid

down in the Cadbury and Greenbury codes, and forms part of Manifest's submission to the committee chaired by Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, which is looking at ways of taking the debate forward.

Manifest, which holds a share in all public companies and inspects all director service contracts, has found that 112 executive directors have no service contract and another 290 fail to disclose contract details. Only 1,139 comply with the code of best practice by having

contracts of 12 months duration or less, 1,300 have two-year fixed contracts, 116 have three-year fixed deals, 87 have two-year rolling contracts and 82 have three-year rolling contracts.

Manifest has also found anomalies that are sure to catch the eye of fund managers such as Norwich Union, Standard Life and the Prudential, which have led the fight to bring down the length of directors' service contracts. Leon Allen, chairman of Devro, the sausage casing company, is recorded as having a fixed six-year service

contract. Tom Farmer, chairman of Kwik-Fit, and Sir Richard Storey, chairman of Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, the publisher, have rolling five-year contracts. Four directors of Automotive Precision Holdings, the engineering group, and two directors of PSIT, the prosperity and investment group, have five-year fixed contracts.

Other directors enjoying similar deals are Richard Kerr at Lowndes Lambert, the insurer, and Graeme Bowler at Kwik Save, the supermarkets group, who was criticised

for taking a £162,000 bonus last financial year when Kwik Save's profits dropped to £2.8 million and it cut 1,600 jobs.

Sarah Wilson, founder director of Manifest, says the only way of forcing companies to comply with best practice is for shareholders to exert pressure by voting their shares on all resolutions at annual meetings. She is working on research to establish a correlation between corporate governance best practice and company performance.

In its submission to the Hampel

committee, Manifest is emphasising that the disclosure of information and communication with shareholders is of paramount importance as part of the corporate governance debate. It recommends that voting by show of hands at AGMs be abolished in favour of a secret ballot of proxy cards.

Manifest also wants companies to allow shareholders to submit proxy votes up to 24 hours before annual meetings if they are not going to attend. Currently the deadline is 48 hours.

Industry faces squeeze from sterling rally

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

THE sharp rise in sterling has removed all the gains in British price competitiveness since 1992 and made British industry less competitive than during the pound's membership of the European exchange rate mechanism, according to the latest assessment of Britain's economic prospects from Oxford Economic Forecasts.

The new report buttresses growing fears among leading economists that British industry faces a damaging year as Britain acts to pre-empt inflation by raising interest rates relative to other countries.

The Oxford forecasters predict that sterling's strength will prevent a runaway consumer boom this year but also threatens to create a significant slowdown in growth in 1998 as exports and investment are squeezed and manufacturing is subdued. "While the stronger currency will help to offset the worst excesses of a consumer boom, it does so at a price," it said.

Oxford noted that sterling's rally is likely to be coupled with higher interest rates, particularly necessary to prevent overheating in the housing market. These two elements threaten to produce a significant slowdown in growth in 1998, which would

limit the next government's room for manoeuvre.

Douglas McWilliams of the Centre of Economics and Business Research suggests that sterling and continental currencies are bound to diverge further. He argues that UK base rates will reach 8 per cent by spring 1998. At the same time, weaker continental economies, with growth likely to average only 1.7 per cent this year, need interest rates to fall. This divergence would also make it impractical for Britain to join a European currency at the start even if it wanted to, he says.

Roger Bootle, the Chancellor's latest independent economic adviser, is equally alarmed. He predicts that base rates will rise by two quarter-point stages in the first half of 1997 to meet inflation threats he believes are exaggerated. Mr Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, argues that the rate rises will boost the pound further, devastating British industry by pricing exporters out of overseas markets.

Oxford predicts that base rates will rise to 7 per cent by the middle of this year, compared with the current level of 6 per cent. "We expect the Chancellor to raise interest rates by another quarter point

soon, hoping that he can avoid another rise before the election," the report said. "But whichever party is in power from May, almost their first move will have to be to tighten monetary policy further, with interest rates rising to 7 per cent by next summer."

While consumer spending is predicted to rise by more than 4 per cent this year on the back of tax cuts, falling unemployment and massive windfalls, exporters face falling market shares and profit margins as a result of the double-digit appreciation in the pound over the past four months alone.

Oxford believes that overall economic growth will therefore be held back to 3.3 per cent in 1997, with underlying inflation broadly flat over the next year at around 3 per cent. In 1998 growth is predicted to slow to only 1.8 per cent.

It also forecasts that sterling's strength will lead to a deterioration in the balance of payments as exporters struggle to maintain the growth of 1996 and strong domestic demand leads to an acceleration of imports. Oxford forecasts that the current account deficit will widen from around £1 billion in 1996 to some £3.6 billion this year.

On the public finances, Oxford is forecasting a drop in the public sector borrowing requirement to £23 billion in 1997-98, and then to £16.4 billion in 1998-99.



Among the proposed new uses for the Brent Spar oil rig are a wind and wave power plant and an artificial reef

Resourceful future for Brent Spar

By Oliver August

SHELL UK hopes to announce this week a shortlist of six proposals for what to do with the unwanted Brent Spar oil platform. The shortlist comes from 30 ideas submitted last year after Shell had to abandon its original plan to ditch the giant structure amid damaging protests at home and in Germany.

The plans include using the platform as the foundation for a harbour quay in Norway and turning it into an eco-friendly wind and wave power plant or an artificial reef.

Shell received proposals from 19 leading offshore contractors and consortia. The only proposal that has already been rejected was excavating a trench in the seabed and burying the Brent Spar.

The cost of the proposals will be taken into account. Shell has indicated that it viewed re-use options, full or partial, as preferable to recycling or disposal.

Giordano faces half salary

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

RICHARD GIORDANO, chairman of British Gas, is expected to have his pay cut by half in May once he relinquishes stewardship of the soon-to-be-demerged public supply side of the business.

The American, who has endured a storm of controversy over pay and his tax arrangements, is likely to be paid about £25,000 once he goes of the reins at Centrica, the new persona for the household gas business. His successor will be Sir Michael Perry, former chairman of Unilever.

Mr Giordano, who has presided over British Gas through some of its worst moments, including the uproar over executive pay and revelations of its exposure to costly take-or-pay fuel contracts, will leave Centrica in May.

His departure will come three months after the scheduled demerger of British Gas's supply business from its pipeline and international activities. It will also coincide with the end of the involvement of Cedric Brown, with British Gas, Mr Brown, the former

chief executive whose salary increase sparked the controversy over remuneration for utility chiefs, left last year but has since been paid £10,000 a month as a consultant to the company. The contract for that business ends in April.

Mr Brown's departure from his full-time role last year was seen by some industry watchers as a means to begin restoring British Gas's tarnished image. There have been similar mutterings about Mr Giordano, who joined the company four years ago.

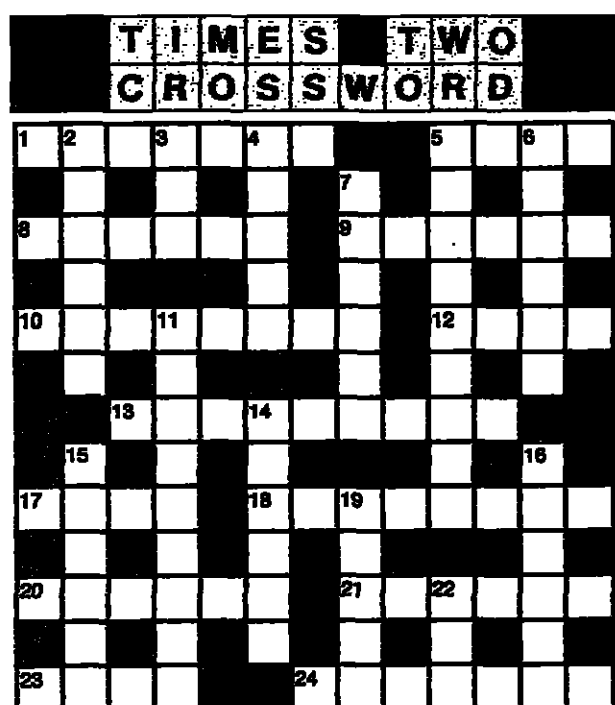
Salaries of some Centrica managers will be boosted by the demerger, although Mr Giordano has said increases will be modest. Details will be revealed on Friday when Centrica's listing particulars are published.

It was clear when British Gas mooted a demerger that Mr Giordano could not easily head both companies but he had initially said he would stay at Centrica for less than a year.

British Gas would not comment yesterday on the boardroom plans for Centrica.



Lord Tugendhat, head of Blue Circle, unveils a pioneering labour agreement with the GMB Union.



No 983

ACROSS

- 1 Hobby (7)
- 5 Boring, cloudy (4)
- 8 Silk strip for tying, etc (6)
- 9 Filthy (stabiles Hercules cleaned) (6)
- 10 Sheath for sword (8)
- 12 Portent (4)
- 13 With which not to touch the hated (9)
- 17 Huge (4)
- 18 Post dance hall (8)
- 20 Spasmodic, intermittent (6)
- 21 Consternation (6)
- 23 Earth: to make dirty (4)
- 24 Navigation instrument (7)

DOWN

- 2 For each person (6)
- 3 Vesel: Swift's Tale of one (3)
- 4 Miraculous food: unexpected gift (5)
- 5 Priest's neckwear (3,6)
- 6 One taking charge (6)
- 7 Short of money (4,2)
- 11 Delighting the eye (9)
- 14 Eat fast: make turkey noise (6)
- 15 Gambling house (6)
- 16 Area of land, of knowledge (6)
- 19 House at drive entrance (5)
- 22 Pose (exam question) (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 982

ACROSS: 1 Recital 5 Shed 9 Actor 10 Braille 11 Show business 12 Shrewd 13 Sniper 16 Mind-boggling 19 Tackler 20 Excel 21 Meek 22 Cutlery
DOWN: 1 Roar 2 Catcher 3 Throw a wobbly 4 Labour 6 Halve 7 Dresser 8 National debt 12 Symptom 14 Panache 15 Agarie 17 Niche 18 Slay

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